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God's Only Message—The Gospel of Christ

Study 2: Galatians 1:6-9

—Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

<p>1. God's gospel (vv.3-4) 2. Some individuals turned to false gospels a. They deserted God b. They turned to a different gospel, a false gospel c. They followed those who twisted the gospel</p>	<p>B. God's Only Message—the Gospel of Christ, 1:6-9</p> <p>6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the</p>	<p>gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.</p>	<p>3. Preachers of false gospels are cursed a. The gospel is greater than the apostle b. The gospel is greater than the angels c. The gospel is greater than any man d. The judgment: A double curse of eternal condemnation vv.8-9</p>
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Section I
GREETING
Galatians 1:1-9

Study 2: GOD'S ONLY MESSAGE—THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Text: Galatians 1:6-9

Aim: To jealously protect the Gospel of Christ from any falsehood.

Memory Verse: "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Ga.1:9).

INTRODUCTION:

How would your church respond if your young people were approached by an organized cult? One night at a church skating party, a group of teenagers were "befriended" by several men who asked about their spiritual lives. The teenagers were given an invitation to join them for a series of special studies. These strangers also invited themselves to the church of these teens. Like a sinister snake, this cult was moving in for the kill.

Fortunately, the parents of these teenagers knew enough of God's Word to make them cautious and wise. After the next church service, the leaders of this cult were spoken to and in blunt terms told to leave their kids alone and to never return to their church again.

Were these adults being ugly and unloving? No. On the contrary,

they were carrying out the Biblical charge: to protect the innocent sheep from the advances of wolves. Paul had the same circumstances to deal with in his time.

The churches of Galatia were being led astray by false teachers, and the very souls of the believers were at stake. Paul had no choice; he had to be strong in what he wrote, for Christ had taught that the value of a single soul was worth more than all the wealth of the world.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mk.8:36-37).

Again, the souls of the Galatians were at stake. Forcefully and powerfully, Paul warned both the false teachers and the believers: God has only one message—the gospel of Christ. It is God's gospel and God's gospel alone that must be obeyed, preached, taught, and heeded.

OUTLINE:

1. God's gospel (v.6).
2. Some individuals turned to false gospels (vv.6-7).
3. Preachers of false gospels are cursed (vv. 8-9).

1. GOD'S GOSPEL IS THE ONLY MESSAGE (v.6).

God's gospel had just been clearly stated by Paul.

“[Christ] gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Ga.1:4).

The message of the gospel is that Christ died to rescue us from this present evil world, that is, from this world’s sin:

Christ died that we might be delivered from sin and death to live eternally with God in a new heavens and earth.

Very practically, what happens is this: when a person looks at Jesus Christ and truly believes that Christ took his sins upon Himself and

- ⇒ lawlessness ⇒ unrighteousness
- ⇒ corruption ⇒ aging
- ⇒ deterioration ⇒ death
- ⇒ judgment ⇒ condemnation
- ⇒ doom

died for them, God counts it so. God credits it as a fact. God sees Christ bearing the person’s sin, and He looks upon the person as being sinless and perfect, that is, completely free of sin. Therefore, the person becomes acceptable to God. God sees him in Christ who is without sin, completely righteous and perfect. But note a critical fact: the person is not sinless; no person is without sin; no person is perfectly righteous. But God counts the person as sinless, as perfectly righteous.

Why does God do such a wonderful and marvelous thing? Because He loves us that much; He loves us with an eternal, unlimited love. This is the message of the glorious gospel. We cannot earn the acceptance of God, for we are unrighteous and imperfect, and only righteousness and perfection can live in the presence of God. But God loves us so much that He has provided the way for us to become righteous and acceptable to him. This is what is meant by justification and the wonderful grace of Christ. This is the glorious message of the gospel.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!” (Jn.1:29).

ILLUSTRATION:

Why is it so important to protect the gospel from falsehood? Dave Bass shares this shocking story:

Every day, striking incidents are accumulating in the experience of overseas missionaries and North American Christians alike:

The candidate for elder in an independent suburban church in the Midwest sat with the board for his interview. From all the church’s appearances—doctrinal statement, sermons, worship, teaching—he had no reason to doubt

that this was a solid, biblical church. In discussing his qualifications, however, he discovered that he was chosen partly because his astrological sign was in harmony with those of the board members. They

urged him to pray for a “spirit guide” who would give him wisdom in his new office. They said he could expect to benefit from ‘deep’ teachings from the elders themselves. Now the man understood why a friend had earlier declined the position and had been reluctant to discuss it. (Selected from Christianity Today. Carol Stream, IL, April 29, 1991, p.14.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How confident are you in your grasp of the essential doctrines of Christianity? What areas need strengthening?
2. What caused Paul to marvel at the Galatians? Are you sometimes guilty of the same thing as the Galatians?
3. What other “gospels” tempt believers? What kinds are a temptation to you?

2. SOME INDIVIDUALS TURNED TO FALSE GOSPELS (vv.6-7).

This is the subject of The book of Galatians, the very reason Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia. Some false teachers had joined the church, false teachers who did not believe in the gospel as proclaimed by Paul and the apostles. They were adding to and taking away from the gospel of the Scriptures and attacking the minister. As a result, some believers were following the false teachers and turning to their false gospels. Paul warned the believers of the churches, and his warning was direct and forceful.

1. The believers were deserting God, removing themselves from God. The word remove means to turn away, to change places, to transfer elsewhere. The tense of the verb is present which means the Galatians were in the process of turning; they had not yet fully turned. There was still hope for them to repent and return to God. Note three striking facts.
 - a. A person who turns away from the gospel is not turning away from a set of beliefs or principles nor from a church. The person is turning away from God Himself. It is God who loves us and saves us, not a set of beliefs. It is God who personally calls us into the grace of Christ, not a message or a preacher. Therefore, to turn away is to desert God Himself, the Person who has loved us enough to save us and to give us eternal life in His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - b. The words so soon show how quickly people can be led away from God. The false teachers had apparently just joined the church and had impressive ability and charisma, so much so that they were almost immediately accepted as teachers in the church. The result had been devastating: many were immediately swayed by the force of their charisma, ability, ideas, and worldly wisdom.
 - c. The word marvel means astounded, astonished, surprised. Paul could hardly believe the fact, for the Galatians had been grounded in the true gospel and had been growing in Christ.

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A R E

But here they were turning away ever so quickly. The believers needed to be warned: they were walking on thin ice. They were turning away and deserting God Himself.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” (Mt.24:12).

2. The believers were turning to another gospel, that is, to a false gospel. The word “another” means a different kind of gospel, not just a difference in emphasis or spirit. (A.T. Robertson. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol.4., Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1931, p.276.)

It means a different kind of gospel that presents...

- a different Jesus
- a different grace
- a different way to be saved
- a different God
- a different picture of God’s love

But note what Scripture declares: the gospel to which the Galatians were turning was not another gospel. There is no other gospel; there is only one true gospel by which men can become acceptable to God, and that is the gospel of God Himself revealed in the death of His Son, even “the grace of Christ” (v.6).

“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn.6:68).

3. The believers were following those who twisted the gospel of Christ. They were following false teachers. Note what it was that made the teachers false teachers: a perverting of the gospel. The word “pervert” means to turn about, to change completely, to distort. They were taking the gospel of God’s love and grace as demonstrated in His Son, Jesus Christ, and changing it. The false teachers claimed to be Christians, followers of Christ. They even believed with Paul...

- that God did love the world and send His Son into the world.
- that Jesus Christ was the Son of God who did actually come to earth.
- that Jesus Christ did die and arise from the dead.

However, the false teachers were adding to and taking away from the gospel, twisting its meaning and making it say something entirely different from the Scripture Paul preached. They distorted the gospel by saying that...

- a. God did show His love for the world by sending His Son, but He sent His Son in particular for the religious person (the Jew and the religionist). They were saying that God loves the world, but He especially loves the people who live religious lives. (Note how this makes God show favoritism and partiality and opens the door for caste systems and prejudice.)
- b. Jesus Christ did come to earth; however, it was not to secure a perfect righteousness for men, but to show men how to live a good life that pleases God and merits God’s approval.
- c. Jesus Christ did die for man; however, He did not die for man’s sin, but to show man how he should be so committed to God that he would die for God’s cause.
- d. The death of Jesus Christ is not sufficient by itself; it cannot

stand alone; it is not enough to make man acceptable to God. More is needed than the raw love of God and the pure grace of Christ.

- e. A person must undergo the ritual that had been the main ritual of believers down through the centuries: circumcision (church membership, baptism, etc.).
- f. A person must work to keep the law of God as well as certain church ceremonies, rituals, rules, and regulations.

Note how devastating the false teaching was: believers were troubled, that is, disturbed, bewildered, perplexed, confused. As pointed out above, they were not only turning away from the gospel but from God Himself and from the glorious grace of Christ (v.6).

APPLICATION:

Note a shocking fact: how close false teaching within the church is to the truth! How a little addition here and a little subtraction there distorts the purity of the gospel! How diligently we must guard against adding our own ideas to the gospel of God.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Mt.7:15).

“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines” (He.13:9).

ILLUSTRATION:

Have you ever thought about the things that pierce God’s heart? One of the major things is idolatry, when a person whom He has called turns to a false religion or a false god.

Years ago, a photographer captured on film four men who were struggling to carry a statue of Buddha during the blast of a violent typhoon. As water was rushing up to their knees, their faces grimaced as they attempted to save their god.

Isaiah the prophet framed this tragic irony—a god who cannot save and has to have the help of people.

“They lift it upon the shoulder and carry it; they set it in its place and it stands there. It does not move from its place. Though one may cry to it, it cannot answer; it cannot deliver him from his distress” (Is.46:7, NASB).

Are you ever tempted to serve this kind of god? Christian believer, let go and let it drown. And then reach out to the one who says...

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you” (Is.43:2, NASB).

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the natural results when a person turns to a false gospel?
2. Do you think it is possible for a Christian believer to turn to a false gospel? How? Why?
3. If you could paint a picture of a false teacher, what would he look like?
4. Can you be too careful about who or what you believe in?

3. PREACHERS OF FALSE GOSPELS ARE CURSED (vv.8-9).

Cursed means cursed, doomed, damned, cast into hell. This is a

strong statement, but it is clearly understandable. The gospel is the means by which men are saved out of the grip of sin, death, and condemnation. Without the gospel no person is saved—no person can become acceptable to God—no person can inherit eternal life. Scripture is clear about the matter and warns all false teachers and all churches.

1. The gospel is greater than the apostle Paul himself. This is a striking statement, for remember who Paul was: probably the most committed servant of God who has ever lived. He had ventured forth as a pioneer into the heathen areas of the world to reach people with the gospel of Christ, the good news that men could be delivered from sin and death and live forever. He loved the Galatians so much that he had risked all he was and had for their sakes. To some Paul must have been a giant, and he must have been held ever so dear to their hearts. But note: Paul says that if he returned to them preaching any other gospel, he was to be accursed. The Galatians were not to receive him no matter how much they esteemed him: they were to reject him. The gospel in all its simplicity and purity was far more important than Paul himself.
2. The gospel is greater than the angels from heaven. Even if an angel came from heaven and began to preach another gospel, he was to be rejected, for he too would be accursed. The glorious message of the gospel is far more important than even the angels in heaven.
3. The gospel is greater than any man (v.9). If any man preached any other gospel, he was to be accursed. The gospel is far more important than any man.
4. The preachers of the false gospels shall suffer the judgment of a double curse. The word *anathema* means to be accursed, doomed to destruction, given over to eternal punishment, placed under the wrath of God. The idea is that of eternal death. This is clear from Paul's use of the word elsewhere where he applies it to himself: "I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren..." (Ro.9:3). Paul was a Jew; he was saying that he loved his Jewish brothers so much that he would gladly suffer eternal punishment for their salvation (the very same love that Christ had demonstrated for all men).

This is one of the most severe warnings in all of Scripture, and note to whom it is given: it is given to teachers, the *false teachers*. Lehman Strauss points out that every

person who does not love the Lord Jesus Christ shall be accursed. How much more,

then, shall the false teacher suffer at the hands of God's eternal wrath³

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?... Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire" (Mt.7:15-16, 19).

QUESTIONS:

1. What conclusions would you make if a Bible teacher or preacher told you the Bible did not apply to him?

What conclusions would you reach if someone said he believed the Bible but refused to live his life according to God's Word?

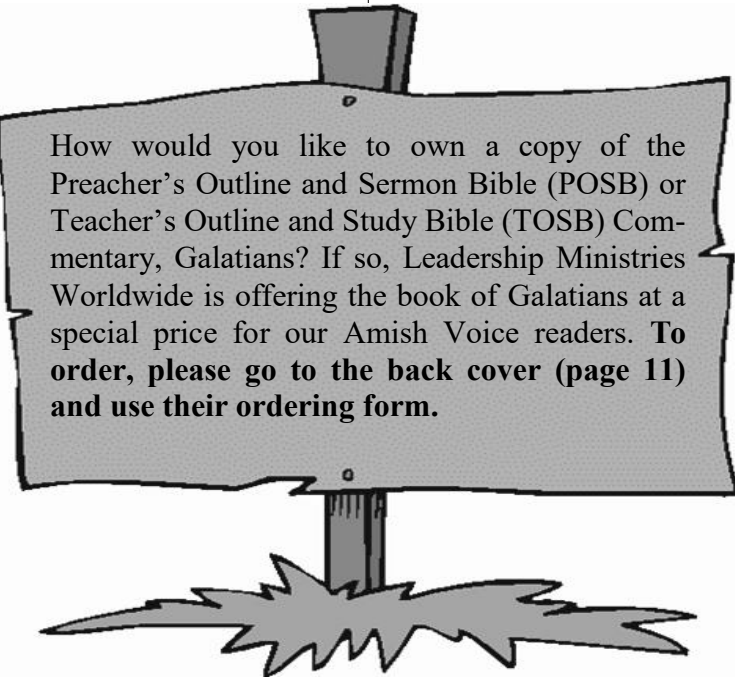
2. Why is Paul's language so harsh?
3. How can believers recognize false teachers? How does God expect you to deal with false teachers?

³ Lehman Strauss. *Devotional Studies in Galatians and Ephesians*. (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1947), p.21

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Once upon a time there was a rich King who had four wives.

He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms.

However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another.

He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confident and was always kind, considerate and patient with him.

Whenever the King faced a problem, he could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times.

The King's 1st wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom.

However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her!

One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered,

"I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone."

Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you.

Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No way!", replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another word.

Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No!", replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!"

His heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!", replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave."

Her answer struck him like a bolt of lightning, and the King was devastated.

Then a voice called out: "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go."

The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She was very skinny and she suffered from malnutrition and neglect.

Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, we all have the 4 wives in our lives:

Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it will leave us when we die.

Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will all go to others.

Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.

And our 1st wife is our Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world.

However, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go.

Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout Eternity.

Salvation: Event or Process?

—by Joe Keim

Can a person know all about Jesus Christ, such as:

- ◆ He is the Son of God
- ◆ He came to planet earth, died for their sins, rose the third day, went back to heaven and is coming again

...and still be cast into the lake of fire at the end of their journey on earth?

On top of knowing all about Christ, can a person also:

- ◆ go to church every Sunday
- ◆ follow all the rules of the church
- ◆ get baptized
- ◆ obey their parents and church leaders
- ◆ live a simple hard working life, be honest and separated from the world

...and still be cast into the lake of fire at the end of their journey on earth?

The answer, according to God's Word is yes. For instance, consider the following Scripture:

Matthew 7:22-23

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.

Matthew is clearly talking about church people who had good intentions; even to the point of preaching, casting out devils and doing many wonderful works. However, when they got to the end of their life's journey, they missed heaven and were ordered to depart from Christ. What a sad and devastating end for people who tried so hard and worked so diligently.

So, how does a person, at the end of their earthly journey, enter God's kingdom?

*Birth is a beginning
and death a destination
And life is a journey,
A sacred journey
to life everlasting*

The answer of course is, there has to be a new (or second) birth event, or as some say, a spiritual conversion.

You see it is very possible, and it happens every day; two people can be living

in the same community, obeying the same rules, going to the same church, following

the same Lord. Outwardly, they are a complete match. The only thing that separates one from the other is the fact that one had a spiritual conversion and the other one didn't.

The one is **doing, doing, doing**, because s/he is in a life-long process of getting right with God, while the other is **doing, doing, doing**, because s/he experienced the second birth and is *already* right with God.

It's kind of like getting **married**. You don't walk up to a person of the opposite sex and say, I've decided to start *following you around, make meals for you, hug you, provide money for your needs and tuck you into bed at night* in order that we might become husband and wife. No! We first become husband and wife (it's an event that happens on our wedding day), and then we start *following him/her around, make meals, hug, provide money and tuck him/her into bed at night*.

—Continued on next page—

Something else to consider: Once married, we do not **do, do, do** in order to become more married. We **do, do, do** because we are married.

The question then is, are you **doing, doing,**

doing in order to become a Christian, or are you **doing, doing, doing** because you are already a Christian?

If your answer is I **do, do, do** because I am *already* a Christian, than my question to you is, “when did you become a Christian?” And yes, just like marriage is an *event*, so the conversion (new birth) is an *event*. It happens on a certain day, certain time and a certain place.

2 Corinthians 6:2

...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

In order to better understand the rest of my article, let’s understand that **doing, doing, doing** is something that happens over a process of time, where as, a spiritual conversion is a one-time event.

Salvation: Event vs. Process

Several weeks ago, I had an opportunity to discuss the second birth with a husband and wife. First I quoted John 3:3 and 5, where it says, “*Except a man is born again, he cannot see or enter God’s kingdom*”. Then I asked the couple, “have you been born again?” Their reply to me was, “Joe, we believe that new birth is a *lifelong process*.”

As this couple continued to share their beliefs about the second birth, the following thought came to mind: They have the *lifelong process* mixed up with the *one-time event*!

Let me explain:

Is it not true, dear reader, that in order for a human being to enter and exist in our physical world, there FIRST had to be an *event* take place, which we call the first birth? In fact, we have a birth certificate proving that such an *event* took place at so and so place, time and location. It’s all right there in black and white. No one even questions the fact that it was not an *event*. I might even add; we celebrate that *event* every year by baking birthday cakes and giving gifts.

Is it not also true that until the *event* takes place, the *process* of growing and maturing the physical mind and body could not begin?

Unlike the birth *event*, growing and maturing is a (lifelong) *process*. So, let’s please understand that *process* can only happen after the *event* and should never be considered as one and the same.

Having said that, let me remind us again that in John 3:3, Jesus clearly told Nicodemus, “except a second birth/event takes place in our life, s/he can never see or enter God’s kingdom.”

- 1. The first birth *event* allowed you and me access into the physical world.

- 2. The second birth *event* allows you and me access into the spiritual world.

And...

- 3. Before you and I could begin the process of growing and maturing in the *physical world*, there had to be a birth *event*.
- 4. Before you and I can begin the process of growing and maturing in the *spiritual world*, there has to be a birth *event* again.

Oh, we can fake it alright, and many are doing just that. They **do, do, do** by going to church, giving money to the poor, reading their Bible, praying daily and doing many wonderful works, however, they have never experienced a spiritual conversion.

Luke 13:2-3

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Repent from what?

Answer: Repent from **doing, doing, doing** in order to become a Christian and have your sins forgiven.

Salvation is a gift! Jesus Christ did not pay for part of your sins and then hand you a payment plan, asking that you keep up the rest of the payments. He paid it all! All to Him I owe!

In fact, the prophet Isaiah points out so clearly, in chapter 64, that even our good works are as *filthy rags*.

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy



*rag*s...

We cannot possibly **do, do, do** enough to pay our own way to God. If we could have paid our own way, Jesus would not have had to come and die on the cross. His death on the cross is what it took to pay your and my way! Will you cast your sin upon Jesus and be born again, today?

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other:

for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Please don't wait another day, another hour, another minute. The time to be *born again* is now. Some day it will be too late. The Bible says:

Revelation 6:17

For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The answer is, no one will be able to stand.

Will you let Jesus stand for you and in your place? He took God’s wrath upon Himself, when He died that horrible death on the cross, 2,000 years ago.

Romans 10:8-9

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

If you have never been born again, would you consider praying these words from your heart and according to God, be saved?

Dear Lord, today, I call upon your name for my salvation. I believe in my heart that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead in order that I might have everlasting life. I now declare Him to be the Lord of my life. I forsake any effort on my part to save myself, and I reject all the charges of Satan that would rob me of my full assurance of eternal life. I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. I declare myself to be a child of God from this day forth, because of the finished work of Christ. —Amen

If you contact our ministry, I would be overjoyed to send you some reading and Bible study materials that will help you become a strong and mature Christian.

—Joe Keim

Back in the years when I was growing up, dad bought a telescope. We would go on top of the hill and look around. Off in the distance was a barn with writing that we could ordinarily not read from the distance which was about 1½ miles away. With the telescope, we could read the writing which was an ad for a drug store in Millersburg. That was impressive to me. It made things look so much closer.

Later on I had an opportunity to look through a microscope. That made things nearby even more nearby. With a microscope you can see things too small for the eye to see.

Which is more important to life — the telescope or microscope? If you say it depends on what you want to see, you are right.

Telescope View

In the distance, things are happening that will affect us all. Egypt has had revolutionary changes, as have a lot of other countries in the area. Obviously, for the believer this will affect our lives in some way in the future.

Many Muslims have had dreams and visions about Jesus, and as a result, placed their faith in Jesus Christ. We need to stand with them and support them as they will be persecuted.

In China many Christians are in jail for preaching the gospel. They too need our prayers and support. When Jesus says *lift up your eyes*, he wants us to focus on what is



farther away from home.

John 4:35

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

When Jesus said this, we believe there was more to it than simply a grain harvest. He was referring to the harvest of souls of men.

Today, we can see the need for harvesters very clearly. We hear of people coming to our country looking for freedom and peace. They come from cultures that are completely different from what we are used to. This is “telescope view.” But still the need is there for them to understand God’s plan and will for their lives.

Since God has only one plan of salvation and that is through Jesus Christ, his Son, then how will they know unless we tell them?

Is their religion going to save them?

Jesus did say, He was the only door and anyone trying another way was a thief and robber.

Microsoft View

Now what is the microscope view, you may ask? That is when we examine ourselves and where we have pleased or displeased our God. We look inward and close up.

When I was young, I had



a relative who would reply to those who asked whether we Amish folks had support for missions by saying: “We feel we have enough working on our own selves to keep us busy.”

This statement is true, if we are to focus only on ourselves. When we are always self-focused, we will never get to the bigger view.

Who then will do the job of harvesting the immense potential crop?

So what shall we do, then? First, we have to recognize that what God has given us must be shared. The good news is that God has made very great and precious promises that are ours to claim. As Paul said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

The reason to conduct ourselves in an orderly and trustworthy manner is to honor God, who is likewise orderly and trustworthy.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

My challenge to you is to take a look at what God is doing in far away places around the world and become a part of it. It will change your life and maybe the life of others.

Eli Stutzman — Ontario Canada
Phone: (519) 866-3737

Pennsylvania Deitsh Testament



If you would like to obtain a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in Pennsylvania Deitsh, they are available for \$13.95 postpaid from the **Committee for Translation, 3864 Township Road 162, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. Phone 330-852-4663.**

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In making this translation, the committee’s purpose was two-fold: 1) to

adhere as closely as possible to the Textus Receptus Greek text, which is closely associated with Luther’s (German) and the Authorized (English) version, the two versions most commonly in use by the Amish, and 2) to make the translation in fluent everyday Pennsylvania Deitsh as it is spoken in the home.

The translation procedures and principles used in this translation are basically those employed by the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the exegesis closely follows their series of in-house “Exegetical Helps”. The final manuscript was checked for exegetical accuracy by New Testament Greek specialists from the Translation Department of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Judgment Day is Coming!

—by Cindy Miller



1.
Judgment Day is coming soon
When O sinner, How long tarry
Sleep, slumber no more till noon
Beaten, battered and o so weary
2.
The minute hand ticks on and on
Sands of time running out
Soon it will midnight strike
The clouds depart, a great shout
3.
Wake up! Wake up! All you sinners
Become alert, Fall on your knees
Repent, cry out, be among the winners
Judgment Day is coming, Please!
4.
When the books are opened
Your life story will tell
Give your heart to Jesus
This will save your soul from Hell.

The hope of the Gospel is an amazing thing. In Hebrews 11:1 it says that *faith is the substance of things hoped for...* According to this scripture, hope is the foundation of faith. Psalms says, *“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.”* and in Psalms 119, *“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”* And in Psalms 71:5, *“For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.”* And again in Psalms 130:5, *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”*

The Bible has much to say about hope but we, in today's world, sometimes misinterpret the true biblical meaning of this word. A lot of times we tend to think of this hope as a wishful thinking kind of hope. Like sometimes we say, "I hope my mom comes over today or I hope I can make it to town before the store closes."

The true biblical definition of this word ac-



ording to the Strong's Greek dictionary means: **expectation of good, hope, in the Christian sense; joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.**

The entire New Testament was originally written in Greek and it is very helpful to look up the definition of some of these words in a Greek/ English dictionary such as is found in the back of the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. According to these definitions, hope is

something that we can have a confident expectation of attaining that which we are expecting to accomplish.

One reason that we can have this kind of hope is because of what our hope is founded on. According to the above quoted verses our hope is in the Lord and in his Word. A person's word is no better than the person's ability to fulfill those words. Now we know that the Lord is able to do whatever he wants to and that He is all powerful. Paul said, *“He that has begun a good work in you is able to complete it unto the day of Jesus Christ.”*

People, is our trust in the Lord and His finished work on the cross or is it based on our own works? If it is based on our own works, then it is just a wishful thinking kind of hope. But if our hope is in the Lord and His strength and power then we have the kind of hope that will endure unto the end.

- ◆ He is the one who created everything we can see, smell, taste, feel and hear.
- ◆ He is the eternal God who was and is and is to come.
- ◆ By him all things consist and in him we live and move and have our being.
- ◆ Even the very air that we breathe was created by him, and according to Colossians, everything is held together by Him.

This same God is the one who said that if we believe in Jesus as our Savior then we have eternal life. Do we truly believe this or do we think we can add something to that?

Peter said we have a living hope. Now if we have a living hope why do we still doubt?

We have a living hope because we have a living, resurrected Savior and King. He is able to save us to the uttermost, according to Hebrews 7:25, because he is a high priest after the order of Melchisedec and is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

According to Peter, *His divine power has given unto us ALL things that pertain*

unto life and Godliness through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. —2 Peter 1:3-4

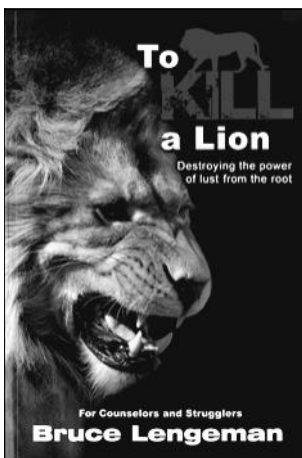
When we try to add to what God has supplied us with, it is an abomination to him. We must get rid of all idols in our lives and put our hope in Him. This kind of hope will not make us ashamed but we will, like Paul wrote in Hebrews 6:17-20:

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

May God bless each and every one of you as we grow in faith and in the full assurance of hope unto the end.

A fellow servant in Christ,

Jonathan Helmuth
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James 5:16
Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Why is it true that during times of struggle, we often look at those around us and believe they wouldn't understand what we are dealing with or would never struggle with something similar? I believe that way of thinking is very likely to be one of Satan's most effective tools in bringing condemnation and discouragement to God's children. It also creates a determination in those who are struggling to not let anyone too close, and to make sure no one finds out they have a problem.

Do you realize people are all made the same?

The Bible says:

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Did you hear that? You are not tempted with anything that is not COMMON to other humans. Don't let the enemy trick you into be-

lieving you are the only Christian woman (or man) who is ever tempted to sin in a certain area.

Nothing comes as a surprise to God, and nothing escapes His watchful eye. He doesn't watch people in order to make sure He sees everything wrong they do but because He cares so much for us.

Remember the scripture that says God does not miss even one falling sparrow? The passage goes on to say that He would care more for us than a bird, and He even counts the number of hairs on our heads!

Think about it, you can't even go bald without Him knowing about it! That is a small picture of how much He cares. He is not surprised when we struggle. Sure, it hurts Him very much to see us falling into sin because He gave up His Son to die in our place so we don't have to live in sin anymore, but nothing we do will make Him love us any less or any more.

Now, going back to the verse we started out with, confessing our sins to each other does not mean we need to confess it to everyone, in front of the church on bended knee, or even to the ministers (although there may be a time for that). The verse simply means that first we need to be honest with ourselves and Him, then, we need to admit that we have a problem, and finally, we need to find someone we trust (make sure they are trustworthy) to share with them what we have been battling with.

Be frank. The reason God tells us to do this is *"That you may be healed"*.

The way we find healing is to be honest and admit there is a problem. If we keep denying that we are sick, will we find healing? Not likely, because if we allow ourselves to believe we are not sick, why would we go to the doctor?

The process of sharing a sin with someone is humbling to be sure. But that action in and of itself makes it less likely that we will struggle as much.

You see, sisters (brothers too), it is in honesty and the humbling of self that we as humans can become closer to conquering our sin.

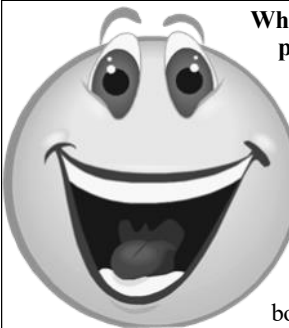
Also, we have someone we trust who can come to us and kindly ask, "How are you doing these days? Are you finding it easier to keep your temper in check? Have you been able to take your wrong thoughts and make them obedient to Christ?"

Seriously now, you really think none of the rest of us know what it's like to battle these things? This thought is the enemy's lie. He is out to war against our souls, but don't listen to him. Your friend will be able to lift you up in prayer, and *"the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much!"*

—Lynn Miller, Kentucky

The Head Games of Happiness

—by Darren Hardy, Publisher of SUCCESS



What makes you happy... really? That's a serious question... maybe one of the most important questions of your life. But did you know most people couldn't answer it correctly? In his book *Stumbling on Happiness*, Harvard professor Dan Gilbert explains that most of us think we know what makes us happy, but typically we are wrong. I have found there are three major traps in which you might be unknowingly making yourself unhappy.

1. **The first unhappiness trap is postponing happiness.** The "when I (fill in the blank), I will be happy" syndrome. The reality is happiness, isn't something to be acquired in the future. You are either happy now or

not; "then" never arrives. Living and striving for "then" results in a constant state of unhappiness. **Now is the only time you have to be happy. If you can't be happy now, you most certainly will not be happy later.**

2. **The second unhappiness trap is we spend our lives trying to make other people happy** which can make us very unhappy. Many times we are living a life we didn't even choose ourselves. We might have simply, and unconsciously, started pursuing the idea of happiness programmed by our parents, peers, societal culture, or the examples given to us by Hollywood or commercialism. **Whose idea of success are you living out?**

3. **Third unhappiness trap is contrast.** For the most part happiness is really an illusion. In other words, you make up the idea of whether you are happy or not. And you really only know how to judge something by comparing it to something else. Typical-

ly this means comparing yourself to other people. This is dangerous business because there will always be reference points that will cause you to be unhappy.

The bottom line is this, happiness creates, there is one is not derived from the outside, it is only derived from within. Happiness is a state of mind. And you can continually choose to be happy.

Here is the best way I know to live in happiness—live in gratitude.

When you focus on all you have and all that you are, right now, that is where happiness is born. Once it is born now you can nurture it further by discovering those other experiences that bring you increased joy, happiness and exhilaration.

Now, let's get happy!

Dear reader, you are going to be blessed reading Joy's article. It is written from the heart and I have no doubt that, like me, you will be able to relate and soak in every word. I remember so well when I started dating my wife, Esther. I thought to myself, we will never get into an argument. As far as I was concerned, everything was going

to be rose beds and sweet honey. That, however, changed early on in marriage. I found out that marriage takes a lot of hard work, sweat and sometimes many tears and lots of prayer. Having said that, I would also like to say: marriage is well worth it — I would marry my wife a hundred times over. —Joe Keim

Hello from Indiana!

Well, it's been awhile since I wrote... but that does NOT mean that God hasn't been teaching and revealing things to me! I'm gonna tell you about the biggest thing that has happened to me this year. It might not sound big to you but to me it was HUGE, Thank You, Jesus! :)

This year started off VERY rocky for us in more than one way, but in the middle of all the chaos God gave me a golden nugget. You know, I've always desired to be a good wife but felt like I failed miserably in many different ways, but Psalms 37:4 says:

"Delight thyself in the Lord; and He shall give you the desires of thine heart."

I believe God always knows the desires of my heart and He gives me wisdom in little doses as I can handle it. I also believe that sometimes God has to shake my world (sometimes in a not-so-pleasant way!!) so I'm willing to listen to what He wants to tell me, which is exactly what happened the beginning of this year.

My husband and I had hit some rocks in our marriage and weren't sure how to fix things and move forward. I was bent out of shape and not at all in a praying mood... I did a lot of "groaning in my spirit", tho. :) But, one day, God so tenderly and mercifully, planted a beautiful thing into my mind... and our marriage has soared to heights we had never known! Ladies, let me tell you, God has given us a huge, important job when He created us to be a man's helpmeet!!

But, anyway, the words that God put in my mind was, "Joy, have you ever TRULY been your husband's safe place?" At first it was a little like gears grinding inside of me, because don't we all want to think "it's his fault, he should come apologize to me first"? :)

But the words, "safe place" kept playing over and over in my mind like a broken record so finally I grabbed my Bible, in a rather heated manner, and started looking for the verse that had

those words in it. Now, I had read that verse many times but it had never soaked in like it did that day.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil."

—Proverbs 31:11

Think about the safest place you can imagine. I don't know where that is for you all because we're all different, but for myself, I think about a beautiful room where I can cry if I'm sad and laugh when I'm happy and I don't have to worry that someone will say I'm crazy or weird. I can say anything that's on my mind.

Anytime the world is going crazy around me and things feel out of control in my life I can go into that room and be safe in whatever mood I'm in. I can always totally relax and let the cares roll off of me in that room.

What if, one day, I'd be sad and upset and I would want to go into my beautiful, safe room to get sweet relief... only to discover the door is locked? I would probably go around looking for other doors or a window because I know what's inside of that room and I need that feeling so I can cope with life and whatever situation I'm in. I would probably bang on the door and walls and shout things that I really didn't mean, out of desperation. How long would I try to get in before I'd give up? How would I feel when I'd finally give up? I would probably feel rejected, unloved, unwanted, worthless, ugly, etc. Would I try to convince myself that I don't need a safe place, or would I be tempted to go look for another safe

place?

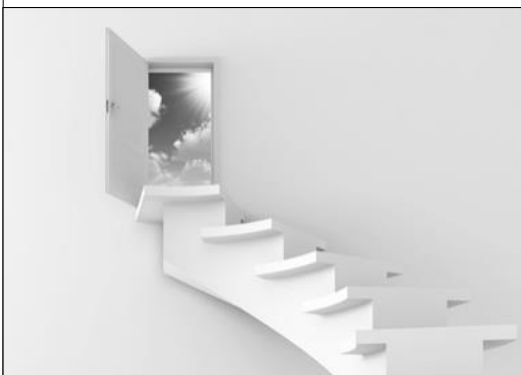
Well, it was a bitter pill for me, but that's exactly how my husband feels when I am not his safe place. When I told him what God had revealed to me, he cried and said that is exactly how he feels but had no idea how to tell me, and he was afraid to try to tell me for fear of what I would say. Our marriage hasn't been the same since that and we both love the change! :)

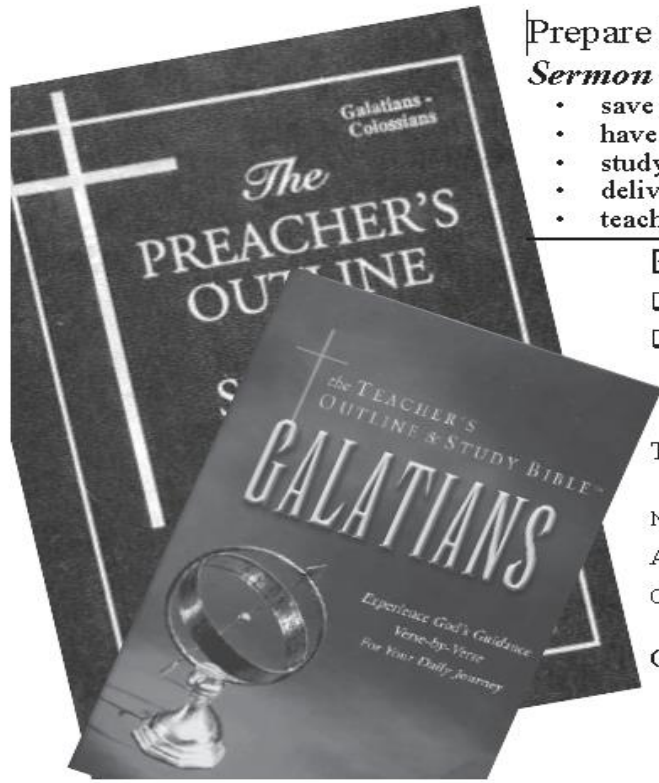
Is the door to my husband's safe place always open or does he sometimes have to look to another place? I praise God He shook me up and challenged me with this even if it took something painful to wake me up!

I will pray for all of you reading this, because I believe God wants amazing things for our marriages! Love you all, Joy

Joy Knepp, Loogootee, IN.

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The Lord is My Shepherd

—by Glenn Archer

The Lord Is My Shepherd: He Leads Me in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake. —Psalm 23:3

He found me weary, and wounded, and wandering. When He passed by and saw me polluted in my own blood, He said unto me, "Live." (Ezekiel 16:5-6) He sought the sheep which had gone astray. I lay there dead in trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1) I had sinned and had come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) I had not attained unto His purpose. I had fallen far short of His goal.

I became the object of His pity. I was the object of His love. At great jeopardy to Himself He left the comfort of His Father's presence to come into a world which would despise and reject Him, a world that would nail him to a tree; He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He endured the cross: He despised the shame. Yet He would come. Other sheep He must bring. Other sheep must hear His voice. (John 10:16) All that the Father gives Him must come. (John 6:37)

He would lead me out of this morass. He would guide me safely home, but in order to do this He must Himself become the way. There is no other way but this. There is salvation in no other. There is no other

name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

As He climbed Golgotha's hill, He bore our grief; He carried our sorrow. As He hung there on Calvary, He was stricken with the stripes we deserve; He was wounded for our transgressions; He was smitten of God and afflicted. It is by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5) Our sins were laid upon Him and He bore the blame of it all. He said Father, "Blame Me." I take the place of all who will believe. I die in their place; I die in their stead.



I have heard the joyful sound, "Jesus Saves, Jesus Saves." I want to shout the tidings all around, "Jesus Saves, Jesus Saves." He is leading us gently home. He found us in our sins and is leading us to His Father's house above. To Him be all the honor, all the glory, and the praise of it all.

—Glenn Archer, Kirksville MO

Maybe you are like me, and think, but what happens when the government spends my money unwisely, or worse yet, they spend my money on things like evolution, abortion, and various other things that are strictly against the Word of God.

My thoughts are as follows:

My job is to obey God's ordinance, just like it says in Romans 13:2:

"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

What the government does with my tax dollars is up to them. They will be held accountable for how they spend it.

Don't forget, it takes taxes and government to build and upkeep our roads, protect us from harm, keep criminals behind bars and many other things we enjoy and often take for granted.

So, let's pay our taxes and pray that God would give our government wisdom and a right mind to spend it correctly and in a godly way.

—Joe Keim

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Current Resident



What did Jesus teach his disciples about paying taxes? We will see that the Bible is very clear on this issue.

If you read Matthew 17:24-27, you will learn that even Jesus paid taxes:

The Bible says, when Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the tax collectors came to Peter and asked, "Doth not your master pay tribute (taxes)?"

"Yes" he replied.

It goes on to say, Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What thinkest thou, Simon?" he asked. "of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?"

"Peter saith unto him, Of strangers."

Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

What Does the Bible Say About Paying Taxes?

—By Joe Keim

Three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke each tell of another incident, when the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus in his words, and find a reason to accuse him. In Matthew 22:15-22 we read:

"Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

They say unto him, Caesar's.

Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way."

This same incident is also recorded in Mark 12:13-17 and Luke 20:20-26.

So the gospels leave no doubt that Jesus taught his followers not only in words, but by example, to give to the government any taxes that are owed.

In Romans 13:1, Paul brings further clarification to this concept, along with an even broader responsibility to Christians:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (government). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

Therefore, we can conclude from this verse, if we don't pay taxes we are rebelling against the authorities established by God.

Romans 13:2 gives this warning:

"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

And finally, regarding the paying of taxes, Paul couldn't make it any clearer in Romans 13:5-7:

"Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

—Continued on page 11—

Taxes—Continued from back page—

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."