



MAP ♦ 575 US Highway 250 ♦ Greenwich, OH 44837 ♦ (419) 962-1515 ♦ May 2019

## Beliefs of Our Fathers: The Bible

## Chapter 4

This continues a study on the beliefs of our forefathers, based largely on the Dordrecht Confession of Faith from 1632. This section tells about Bibliology, or the study of the Bible. The article has been edited for space.

### The Bible

#### Bibliology

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)*

#### Introduction

God revealed Himself and made His Word known to us by giving us the Holy Scriptures. He let us know what He wanted us to know.

The Bible is God-breathed, meaning that it was given to us by God. What was written was intended by God to be written. None of the Bible was merely made up by man. All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

Every part of the Bible is from God. We do not decide which parts to follow and

which to ignore. All sixty-six books were given to us by the inspiration and will of God. Every original word in the Bible is inspired by God and was written as intended and directed by God.

The Scriptures as given to us by God are free from error. God made no mistakes with any of the words given to us in the Bible. We can trust the entire Bible, as it comes from God, who is Truth.

What God has given to us in the Bible is sufficient. We do not know or understand everything about God and eternity, but God has told us all that we need to know in order to know the way of salvation and to follow Jesus in living a holy life. One day we will see the things of God more clearly, but what God has revealed to us in His Word is all that we need in order to learn of Him, to live for Him, and to love Him in this life.

The Scriptures are from God Himself and are to be taken as they are—the actual Word of God—as if God were speaking directly and individually to each of us, with the full weight and power of God Himself. God is able to preserve His Word for us down through the ages, and He has done so. Despite many attempts to destroy the Word of God, it lives and

abides forever. God has protected and maintained His Word for us. It has not changed. What God told Moses thousands of years ago is preserved for us in the Bible. Thousands of ancient biblical manuscripts have been found and confirm that what was recorded in the ancient biblical writings remains the same as what we have in the Bible today.

#### What Many Anabaptists Believe

While the Dordrecht Confession of Faith does not contain a specific section explaining the importance of the Scriptures, sections can be found throughout the Confession alluding to the reliance upon the Scriptures as the basis of belief. Phrases such as “according to the holy Scriptures,” “We furthermore believe and confess with the Scriptures,” “as the Scripture says,” and “according to Scripture” are common in the Confession.

*Martyrs Mirror* is another important Anabaptist writing, providing much Anabaptist history, especially in regard to the many who suffered for their faith. The book contains many different Anabaptist confessions of faith explaining Anabaptist beliefs. One such confession can be found a few hundred

pages into the book, and is simply titled “Confession of Faith according to the Holy Word of God.” This confession is described as “a certain Confession of Faith, which very probably was once contained in the history of the pious Anabaptist Martyrs and is declared to have been the summary of their faith.” It is thought to have originated around the year 1600. Article XI of this Confession contains the following points:

### **The Bible Is the Written Word of God**

The Old Testament includes the five books of Moses and “also all kings, priests, and prophets, who prophesied and spoke, through the Spirit of God, among this people, Israel.”

The Old Testament is historical and also spiritual and brings us to a better hope—to Christ. “The Levitical priesthood, ceremonies, and sacrifices, the land of Canaan, kings, the city of Jerusalem, and the Temple . . . pointed and led to Christ Jesus.”

“The old law was an intolerable yoke of bondage, which brought condemnation upon all who did not continue in, and perform all that is written in the book of the law.”

### **The Bible Is the Word of Reconciliation and Grace**

The Bible can lead us to a loving relationship with God through His grace:

“Christ Jesus came, who is the end and the fulfilling of the old law.” Jesus is the “author of the new law, of perfect liberty, and the real, true light, to which all the dark shadows pointed.”

Jesus was “sent from God, with full power in heaven and on earth and is the one who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.”

Jesus “made a new covenant . . . and has invited thereto all the Gentiles and nations of the earth” so that “by obedience through grace, they may now become fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.”

This is the “word of reconciliation, by which Almighty God, through His Spirit, works faith, regeneration, and all the good fruits . . . in men; in which word of the New Testament are proclaimed to us full grace and peace, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life, together with all things, that pertain unto life and godliness, yea, all the counsel of God.”

### **Holy Scriptures Regulate and Measure Faith**

All believing children of the New Testament must “regulate and conduct themselves in all matters relating to the faith; in accordance with which, finally, an eternal judgment will be held.”

“This New and everlasting Covenant, which is confirmed with the precious death and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,” may “not be changed, or anything taken from or added to it . . . according to one’s own individual opinions.”

“All Christians are in duty bound to bow their whole heart, mind, and soul under the obedience of Christ and the mind of the Holy Spirit expressed in the holy Scriptures, and to regulate and measure their whole faith and conversation according to” what is contained therein.

### **Man Lives by Every Word of the Bible**

The Old Testament is to be explained by and shown to agree with the New Testament and must be taught among the people of God, including the law of Moses and the grace of God.

“All Christians must . . . regulate and conduct themselves only in accordance with this blessed Gospel of Christ.”

“As the outward man lives outwardly by the nourishment of bread; so the inward man of the soul lives by every word proceeding from the mouth of the Lord.”

“Therefore, the Word of God must be purely and sincerely preached, heard, received, and kept, by all believers.”

You can see the great importance placed on the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God, to be taught, read, believed, and lived by all who profess to follow Jesus.

### **What the Scriptures Teach**

All thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and all twenty-seven books of the New Testament are inspired by God and remain God’s Word for us today.

The Jews had the Scriptures in their common Hebrew language, with some portions in Daniel and Ezra written in Aramaic (an ancient Middle Eastern language). The first translation of the Old Testament was in Greek (called the Septuagint) around 300 BC, because many of the Jewish people could no longer read Hebrew. The New Testament was originally written in common, everyday Greek, and then in AD 382, a church leader and teacher named Jerome began translating the entire Bible into

This publishing work is registered as a charitable organization in the USA and is supported through freewill offerings. We welcome your articles, testimonies, and questions. We reserve the right to edit or decline any material and are not responsible for the return of any articles.

Since our beginning in 2000, many people have written to us, asking to be added to our mailing list, while others have sent us names of their friends and family members. We think it’s important for us to tell you that the cost of *The Amish Voice* is \$.50 a copy and is totally funded by readers from across our great country who appreciate the ministry and care to support it. If the Lord would lay it on your heart to come alongside us by helping with expenses, it would be a great benefit, as well as highly appreciated. In order to continue receiving *The Amish Voice*, please keep us informed of any changes to your address. Thank you. —Joe Keim

Latin, which was the language of ordinary Christians of the Roman Empire. This gave the early church the Scriptures in their common languages of Greek or Latin.

God intended for us to have the Bible in our own common language. If our common language is German, then we would read the Bible in German. If the language we read best is English, then we should read the Bible in English. Why would God want us to read the Bible in a language we don't understand well?

People who were used by God in the Bible believed that the Word of God was true. From Moses to David to Isaiah to Jesus to the apostles, they believed the Bible to be from God and that it was the source of truth and final authority on matters of faith and doctrine.

Moses said, *Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it* (Deuteronomy 4:5).

In Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, David repeatedly wrote of his love for the Word of God and how it applied to his life. In Psalm 19:7-10, we see another example, where David wrote:

*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Isaiah wrote, *Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read* (Isaiah 34:16). Later he said, *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever* (Isaiah 40:8).

The prophet Jeremiah recorded: *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and*

*like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?* (Jeremiah 23:29).

Jesus Himself told religious leaders, *Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God* (Matthew 22:29). He told His own disciples, *These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me* (Luke 24:44).

*Search the scriptures,* Jesus said, *for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me* (John 5:39).

The Jews in Berea would not even believe their religious teachers—even the apostle Paul—unless they were convinced that he taught the Scriptures correctly. *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so* (Acts 17:11).

The apostle Paul wrote much about the importance and necessity of the Word of God, including that *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17).

Paul knew that the Bible was not a mere human book, but it was the Word of God. *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God* (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Paul also told us that studying the Bible is part of being a good follower of Jesus. *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth* (2 Timothy 2:15).

Paul reminded Timothy that the Scriptures are able to teach us about salvation. *From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through*

*faith which is in Christ Jesus* (2 Tim 3:15).

The writer to the Hebrews tells us that *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12).

Peter wrote that we should desire to know the Word of God so we can grow as believers. *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby* (1 Peter 2:2).

Peter also wrote about the role of the Bible in the new birth. *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever* (1 Peter 1:23-25).

This famous summary of what the Bible ought to mean to each of us was written by Paul: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Many more examples could also have been given from both the Old and New Testaments that not only show the importance of the Word of God in the lives of the biblical authors, but also show the significance that God's Word ought to have in our own lives. While Christians ought to meet with other believers, and church leaders should be good and godly men, notice that these verses do not tell us to rely upon religion, church, or even church leaders. Rather, we are to go to the Bible and study God's Word. The Bible is to be the final authority in our lives.

God's ways are best and right. Either we accept His Word or we reject it. There can be no middle ground. Either the

Continued  
Next Page

Bible is from God or it is not. Either it is all true or we cannot rely on any of it. As believers, we know God's Word is true – all true. It is His Word revealed to us. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Scriptures, as given by God, are without error. The Word of God is what it claims to be—the Word of God—and as such, it comes with the authority of God Himself. No mere man can rightly declare God or His Word to be wrong. The sixty-six books of the Bible contain all we need to know in order to live this life and prepare for the next. God has preserved His Word for us, and we can know with certainty that what was written thousands of years ago is the same as what we have in the Bible today.

### Historical Accuracy

It is amazing how often people doubt the truth of the Bible or deny its historical accuracy, only to see the Bible proven right again and again through archaeological, historical, or scientific evidence. For instance, prior to the late nineteenth century, nothing was known about the Hittites except for what was in the Bible. This led many Bible critics to claim that the biblical authors invented the Hittites. Based on this mistaken belief, they suggested it was proof that the Bible was not true.

Then in 1876, a British scholar named A. H. Sayce found inscriptions (writings) carved on rocks in Turkey, which he suspected might be evidence of the Hittite nation. Ten years later, more clay tablets were discovered in Turkey. German cuneiform (writing) expert Hugo Winckler investigated the tablets and began his own excavation at the site in 1906. He found five temples, a citadel, a record of a treaty between Ramesses II and the Hittite king, and more. The discovery also confirmed other biblical facts. Such evidence as this should not surprise Christians, because we who

accept the Bible by faith know that it is true and that it can never be proven to be wrong, for it is from God.

Anabaptists, along with most Protestants, believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. They respect the Bible as a special book from God. Sadly, though, many don't read it, or if they do, they do not read it in their common language. Even though Jesus says to search the Scriptures, even though He said the religious leaders were wrong because they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God, and even though the Bible tells of the wisdom of the Berean Jews for making sure that what they were being taught was actually from the Bible, many people today still rely mainly upon church teachings without studying the Scriptures on their own. They know what they believe, but they don't verify it. They can repeat what they were taught, but they cannot show others what the Bible actually says about those beliefs. They rely more upon men for their beliefs than on the pure Word of God.

### Examples and Illustrations

When Dr. Pollich of Mellerstadt heard Martin Luther lecture at the University of Wittenberg, he said, "That monk will confound all the learned doctors, propound a new doctrine, and reform the whole Roman church, for he studies the writings of the prophets and evangelists." He said, "He relies on the Word of Jesus Christ, and no one can subvert that, either with philosophy or with sophistry [deception]." May we, also, rely upon the Word of God.

Martin Luther said, "For some years now, I have read through the Bible twice every year. If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant." Luther believed in living according to the Bible, saying, "You may as well quit reading and hearing the Word of God, and give it

to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it." Let us also read the Bible daily and search the Scriptures for wisdom and truth.

Famous British preacher Charles Spurgeon said, "I have heard of two Roman Catholics, a man and his wife, who acquired a copy of the Scriptures, of which they had never seen one before. The man began to read it, and one night, as he sat beside the fire with the open book, he said, 'Wife, if this book is right, we are wrong.' He continued reading, and a few days after this, he said, 'Wife, if this book is right, we are lost.' More eager now than ever, to see what the Word of the Lord was, he studied the book, until one night he joyfully exclaimed, 'Wife, if this book is true, we are saved.'"

"The same Word that showed them they were undone [lost], revealed also the gospel of salvation. This is the glory of the Word of God; it is against us until we are led out of our sins, and then we find that death becomes the gate of life to our souls, and the Word of God is on our side. The same Word that reveals the terrors of the Lord also says, 'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.'"

How much time does it take to read from Genesis to Revelation? If you read the Bible at normal speed (slow enough to be heard and understood), the reading time would be seventy-one hours. If you break that down into minutes and divide it into 365 days, you could read the entire Bible, cover to cover, in only twelve minutes a day. Is this really too much time to spend reading about God?

Catherine Booth, wife of the founder of the Salvation Army, had read the entire Bible through eight times by the age of twelve. Have you read it through even once?

### Mary Jones

Mary Jones was born in Wales in 1784. Her father told her Bible stories, and she

longed to read the Bible. Her family was too poor to buy a Bible, and Mary could not read. A farmer's wife who lived two miles away told Mary that when she learned to read, she could come to their house and read their Bible. When a neighborhood school opened, Mary attended, and by the age of ten, she had learned how to read. She then walked the two miles to the neighbor's house to read their Bible, memorizing entire chapters at a time. Every Saturday she walked the two miles just to read the Bible, and for the next six years, Mary saved money by doing jobs for neighbors.

When she was sixteen years old, Mary heard about Pastor Charles in the town of Bala—about twenty-five miles away. He had Bibles for sale. She took her money and walked the twenty-five miles barefoot so she wouldn't ruin her one pair of shoes. When she found the pastor, he told her he had sold most of the Bibles, and the remaining few had been promised to others. The Welsh Bible Society that

had printed them had no plans to print more, but when he heard her story, he gave her his last copy, which he had reserved for someone else.

Her story inspired many, and with the help of Pastor Charles, the British and Foreign Bible Society soon formed to help provide more Bibles. Does the Bible mean as much to you as it did to Mary Jones?

A. W. Tozer once said, "The Bible is the easiest book in the world to understand for the spiritual mind, but one of the hardest for the carnal mind." Let us seek God and ask Him to teach us the truth of His Word, and let us read it daily.

### Prayer

Father, thank you for giving us Your Word—not only the written Word that we call the Bible, but the Word made flesh who dwelt among us and died for us—Jesus Christ Your Son, the Lamb of God. May we not only talk about the Bible, but help us to love, learn, and live

your Word. May we take Your Word as our final authority as You continue to change our hearts and conform us to the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ, through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

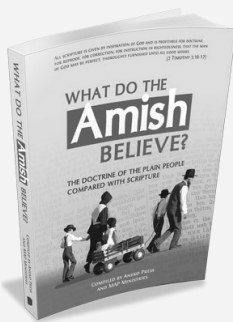
Help us not to follow religion or make excuses, but to go to You and ask You to open the eyes of our understanding and make sure that what we believe is not the mere doctrine or rules of man, but that we believe Your Holy Word. Remind us that if leaders teach things contrary to the Bible, then they are wrong, but Your Word is true and faithful forever.

Teach us to follow Jesus and to live as He lived, telling others about Him and doing what is right in Your eyes only. Many good, religious people do not know Your Holy Word. May our hearts be truly changed, may we really be born again as Jesus explained, and may we live and love according to the precious Word of God. Thank You for the Bible. Thank you for Jesus. In His name, amen.

**Continued  
Next Issue**

## Related Resources

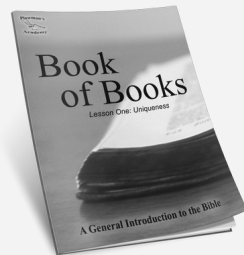
Do your beliefs line up with those of our Anabaptist forefathers? In this 160-page book, *What Do the Amish Believe?*, nine authors took the time to go back and study the original beliefs of our forefathers and compare what they believed to what many of us believe today. A \$5 donation covers the cost of printing and postage.



### Other Resources

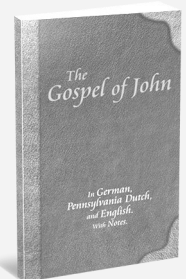
If you would like to learn more about the Bible, we have some material that might help. Write to us or call us and request one or both free items or purchase the Gospel of John:

1. If you want to read through the Bible in one year, request our **free daily Bible reading schedule**. We will send you the schedule that lists the chapters of the Bible you need to read if you want to read through the entire Bible from beginning to end in one year.
2. If you want to learn more about the Bible and how we got it and how to understand it better, you can sign up for our **free Book of Books correspondence course**. This thirteen-lesson course takes you through some of the



history, culture, and importance of the Bible, as well as explaining some of the customs of Bible times and the geography of the Biblical lands.

3. We have the **Gospel of John** that you can order for \$5.00, including shipping. It contains the Gospel of John in German, Pennsylvania Dutch, and English, along with some helpful notes.



To order any of these resources, contact us at Amish Voice, 575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837, or call us at (419) 962-1515.

## The Believer's Benefits

—By Sylvan Lapp

*Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.* (Ps. 103:1–5)

The word *benefit* is defined as “something that promotes well-being; or as an employer who gives in addition to wages or salary. We see here in Psalm 103 the benefits are almost endless for the born-again believer—the person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and has trusted in His shed blood at the cross for his salvation. We see here that God forgives our sins, redeems us from destruction, and heals our diseases. He crowns us with lovingkindness and mercy, fills our mouth with good things, and renews us.

In Psalm 1, we read how blessed is the person whose delight is in the law of the

Lord and who meditates on it day and night. The law of the Lord is the love we have toward God and our fellow human beings. *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another* (John 13:35).

In Romans 4 we read about a huge benefit, imputed righteousness—that divine exchange where Christ takes our sins and gives us His righteousness, giving us a righteous standing with God. John 5:24 says, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

Romans 5:1–2 says, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the*

*inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.* (Col. 1:12–14)

We as believers are the most fortunate people on earth. We have a God who loves us and a Savior who died for us. It is God who made us worthy to be a part of the saints and who brought us out of the darkness and into the kingdom of His dear Son. He gives us forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ.

I would like to end this article with Colossians 3:16–17: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Praise be to God for all His benefits!

## The Inner Battle

—By Joe Keim

This morning I was feeling challenged in the area of forgiving people who talked nicely to my face but threw me in the frying pan the minute I turned my back. The thoughts and feelings crept in slowly and unannounced. It was not until I was awake for an hour that I suddenly realized—this whole thing is mentally devouring me.

Right away, I started feeling guilty. Joe, you call yourself a Christian! You are in full-time ministry! When are going to start living what you preach? I bet God is not very happy with you right now!

The guilt that followed the torment felt like a 12-inch steel wall between me and God. Spiritual intimacy had fled, and God seemed far away. Does that ever

happen to you?

In order to get back on track, we must go where the war is being fought—between our two ears—the mind. The apostle Paul said, *Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind* (Romans 12:2)—like a caterpillar changing into a butterfly.

How do we renew our minds?



What helps me renew my mind is prayer, listening to psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19), and reading God's Word.

Praying reminds us that we are not capable of handling Satan and his lies on our own.

Godly music reminds us how much our eternal Father wants to be involved in every part of our lives, and it causes us to stand in awe of His unfailing mercy and endless unconditional love for His sons and daughters.

Scripture, the Word of God, acts like soapy rinse water. It cleans our inside out and restores our joy.

Happy day, my friend!

## To My Dear Mother

—By Ann Detweiler Peachey

Dear Mom,

Tomorrow is Mother's Day. I wanted to get you a special card, or flowers, or something—anything to let you know how much you mean to me. But honestly, flowers and cards really don't express it well enough. Since writing happens to be my gift, I decided that might be a better option.

Mom, thank you. Thank you for carrying me for nine long months. Thank you for laboring all day and birthing my little body. Thank you for holding me in your arms and weeping as you thought about the responsibility of guiding my soul. Thank you for all those sleepless nights, diaper changes, laundry, and baths.

Thank you for singing to me, for sharing your love of music with me, and for taking me for piano lessons. Thank you for letting me sing all the different parts while I "sang" soprano in my head. Thank you for the good memories of reciting a Psalm before nap time, and for the afternoons on the porch swing eagerly waiting for Daddy to arrive home from work.

I remember one time when you had a

picnic lunch with us under the pine trees. Thank you for taking time out of your day to do that. Thank you for giving me special care when I was sick. Thank you for praying with me when I had nightmares. Thank you for answering my many questions and listening to my many stories. Thank you for your patience with me.



Very faintly I remember that before I'd go to sleep, you and Dad would pray with me and the rest of the children. Thank you. Thank you for teaching me of Jesus by your word and example. Thank you for your vibrant spirit and for showing me how to love my husband by the way you love Dad.

Mom, I'm so blessed to have you as my

mom. I admire how you mothered. I want to memorize scripture with my children and pray with them. I want to sing with them. I want them to have memories of watching the road for their daddy to arrive home from work. I want them to know without a shadow of doubt that "Mommy loves Daddy," just like I knew when I was growing up.

I've taken you for granted so many times. But I want to change that. Now I'm the one with a toddler pulling at my skirt and a baby who needs nursed. Now I have little voices who call me "Mommy." It's my turn to deal with the messy diapers, mountains of dirty laundry and dishes, the fingerprints on the window panes, and the short nights.

And my desire is to do my part as a mama to plant seeds in my children's hearts just like you did with me. So that someday, they, too, will rise up and do the same for their children, for God's glory alone.

Thank you, Mom! I'm so glad God choose you to be my mom. May God bless you this Mother's Day and always.

I love you, Ann

## Yes, I Know!

—By R. J. Danbury

This life has many blessings—especially when we live for God. However, since Adam and Eve sinned, this life is also filled with sorrow, sickness, trouble, disappointment, and death. Some of you know what it is to lose a loved one—even a child. Some people have been abused. Some feel unloved and unwanted. Some suffer with difficult health problems.

No matter how difficult things seem to be, we can find some comfort and peace and hope knowing that in heaven all of these problems and disappointments will be over. How great it will be to be

forever with Jesus in a place where there is no more sin and sickness and disappointment and cruelty! There will be no more lying and abuse and hate! There will be no more death!

Will you be there in heaven with us, Friend? You might answer, "I hope so!" I hope so, too—but do you know so? How great it is to know that you are forgiven, that you no longer have to depend upon your own works and goodness, but you can rest confidently in the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us from all sin. Do you hope that you are going to heaven? How

much better to know so! *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God* (1 John 5:13).

We can know! We do not have to live in fear! We can know, for we can trust in the One who paid for our sins. We can know, for we can trust in Jesus! Are you trusting in religion or yourself or your good works? Trust in Jesus. Read God's Word. He wrote it for us, and we can know that we have eternal life!

## Sermons and Testimonies over the Phone

Call in and listen to a variety of topics that covers things such as family, parenting, testimonies, and biblical teaching. Pick up

**Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3800**

**Access Code: 478499 #**

the phone, dial the number, and add the access code. Listen to a whole new set of messages every month!

### May

#### The Challenge of Forgiving Ourselves

Motivated by His great love, God acted to forgive your sins through the saving work of Jesus Christ. You may know that God has forgiven you, but have you forgiven yourself? Charles Stanley explains that in order to experience full forgiveness, we must experience God's forgiveness, forgive others, and learn to forgive ourselves.

#### Drawing Closer to God and Each Other, Parts 1 and 2

Joining Focus on the Family, author Gary Thomas explains how a husband and wife can foster oneness in their marriage by pursuing God together.

#### Six "Thank You" Statements to Say to Your Spouse

Emerson and Jonathan Eggerichs ask listeners to consider how they might express thankfulness to their spouse.

### June

#### The Final Judgment

Listen to Pastor Charles Stanley explain that those who die without the Lord Jesus Christ will stand in the most tense, fearful moments in human history. Before a righteous, holy God, they will hear Him hand down the verdict—the irrevocable and eternal verdict—concerning their future judgment and eternity.

#### Practical Ideas for Connecting with Your Children

Author and speaker Kathi Lipp joins Focus on the Family to offer parents practical suggestions for developing a stronger relationship with their children in a discussion based on her book *The Mom Project*.

### Three Goals in Dating That Lead to a Successful Marriage

#### Parts 1, 2, and 3

This three-part series with Emerson and Jonathan Eggerichs is perfect for anyone who is dating or unmarried, but also for anyone who knows someone that is. Additionally, do you have children or plan on having children? This can help you in your conversations with them about marriage.

### July

#### Our Eternal Home, Part 1

Charles Stanley explains that according to the Bible, there is only one of two places where a person will spend eternity. One of them is called heaven and the other is called the lake of fire. Which will be your eternal home?

#### Exploring Your Love Styles

In a discussion based on their book *How We Love*, counselors Milan and Kay Yerkovich join Focus on the Family to outline five primary love styles and explain how each shapes behaviors, beliefs, and expectations in marriage.

#### Is a Changed Live Really Possible? Parts 1 and 2

Can you imagine a life so changed, so transformed, that you are a little mirror of Christ on this planet?

That transformed life can be yours, but you can't do it alone. Using the Bible and practical examples, Chip Ingram will show you how you can think, feel, and act differently because God's Spirit has taken up residence inside you. how life-change really happens, even in the midst of frustrating, painful, or mundane circumstances.

## Contact The Amish Voice

**1. Comments and Questions:** If you have any comments, prayer requests, suggestions, ideas, or questions, or if you want to send us an article or your testimony to be printed in the *Amish Voice*.

**2. Printing and Postage:** If you enjoy the *Amish Voice* and would like to help us with the cost of printing and postage.

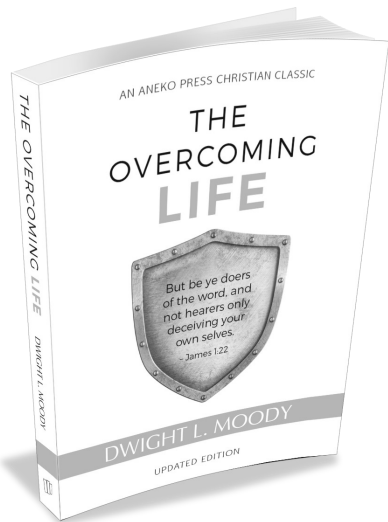
**3. Friends and Family:** If you know of others who might benefit from the *Amish Voice*.

**Contact us at:** The Amish Voice

575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837

**Office:** (419) 962-1515





Continued from the last issue.

## Where Can Rest Be Found?

If I wanted to find a person who had rest, I wouldn't go among the very wealthy. The man we read of in Luke 12 thought he was going to get rest by multiplying his goods, but he was disappointed. *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry* (Luke 12:19). I venture to say that there is not a person in this whole world who has tried to find rest in that way who has found it.

Money cannot buy it. Many millionaires would gladly pay millions if they could purchase it like stocks and bonds. God made the soul a little too large for this world. We could possess the entire world, and a void would still exist. There is a lot involved in getting wealth, and even more in keeping it.

Nor would I seek rest among the pleasure seekers. They indulge in a few hours of enjoyment one day, but the next day there is enough sorrow to counterbalance it. They can drink the cup of pleasure today, but the cup of pain comes tomorrow.

To find rest, I would never go among the politicians or among the so-called great

Congress is the last place on earth I would go. In the Lower House they want to go to the Senate. In the Senate they want to go to the Cabinet. Then they want to go to the White House. Rest has never been found there.

Nor would I go among the halls of learning. *Much study is a weariness of the flesh* (Ecclesiastes 12:12). I wouldn't go among high society, because they are constantly chasing after fashion. Have you ever noticed their troubled faces out in public? The face is a window to the soul. They have no hopeful look. Their worship of pleasure is slavery. Solomon tried pleasure and found bitter disappointment. In the end came the bitter cry: *All is vanity* (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

There is no rest in sin. The wicked know nothing about it. The Scriptures tell us that *the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt* (Isaiah 57:20). Perhaps you've been on the sea when there is a calm. The water is crystal clear and it seems as if the sea is at rest; but if you looked closely, you would see that the waves came in and the calm is only on the surface. Man, like the sea, has no rest. He has had no rest since Adam fell. There will be no rest for him until he returns to God again and the light of Christ shines into his heart.

Rest cannot be found in the world, and thank God that the world cannot take it from the believing heart. Sin is the cause of all the unrest. It brought toil, labor, and misery into the world.

Now for something positive. Those who have heard the sweet voice of Jesus and have laid their burdens down at the cross, have found rest, sweet rest. Thousands could testify to this blessed fact. They could say truthfully:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me and rest;

Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary, and worn, and sad.  
I found in Him a resting-place,  
And He has made me glad.

(From the hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," by Horatius Bonar)

Among all his writings, Saint Augustine has nothing sweeter to say than this: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our heart is restless till it rests in Thee."

Do you know that for four thousand years no prophet, priest, or patriarch ever stood up and spoke like this? It would have been blasphemy for Moses to have uttered those words. Do you think he had rest when he displeased the Lord? Do you think Elijah could have uttered such a text as this when he prayed that he might die under the juniper tree?

This is one of the strongest proofs that Jesus Christ was not only man, but also God. He was God-man, and this is heaven's proclamation: *Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28). He brought it down from heaven with Him.

If this text wasn't true, don't you think we would have found out by now? I believe it as much as I believe in my own existence. Why? Because I not only find it in the Book, but also in my own experience. The "I wills" of Christ have never been broken, and never can be.

I thank God for the word *give* in that passage. He doesn't sell it. Some of us are so poor that we couldn't buy it if it was for sale. Thank God, we can get it for nothing.

I like to have a text like this, because it is for all of us. *Come unto me, all ye that labour*. That doesn't mean a select few refined ladies and cultured men. It

Continued  
Next Page

doesn't mean good people only. It applies to saint and sinner. Hospitals are for the sick, not for healthy people. Christ wouldn't shut the door in anyone's face and say, "I didn't mean all. I only meant certain ones." If you can't come as a saint, come as a sinner. Only come.

A lady told me once that she was so hard-hearted she couldn't come. "Well," I said, "it doesn't say all you soft-hearted people come. Black hearts, vile hearts, hard hearts, soft hearts, all hearts come. Who can soften your hard heart but Him?" The harder the heart, the more you need to come.

If my watch stops, I don't take it to a drug store or to a blacksmith's shop. I take it to the watchmaker to have it repaired. So if the heart gets out of order, take it to its keeper, Christ, to have it set right. If you can prove that you are a sinner, you're entitled to the promise. Get all the benefit you can out of it.

There are many believers who think this text applies only to sinners. It's just the thing for them, too. What do we see today? The church, Christian people, all loaded down with cares and troubles. *Come unto me, all ye that labour.* All! I believe that includes the Christian whose heart is burdened with some great sorrow. The Lord wants you to come.

### Christ the Burden-Bearer

The Bible also says, *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you* (1 Peter 5:7). The church would stand victorious if Christian people realized that, but they have never made that discovery. They agree that Christ is the sin-bearer, but they don't realize that He is also the burden-bearer. *Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows* (Isaiah 53:4). It is the privilege of every child of God to walk in unclouded sunlight.

Some people go back into the past and rake up all their troubles, and then they look into the future and anticipate that they will have still more trouble, and they go reeling and staggering all through life.

They give you the cold chills every time they meet you. They put on a whining voice and tell you what a hard time they've had. I believe they carry their troubles in their back pocket and bring them out at every opportunity.

The Lord says, "Cast all your care on Me. I want to carry your burdens and your troubles." What we need is a joyful church, and we're not going to convert the world until we have it. We want to eradicate this long-faced Christianity from the face of the earth.

Take the people who bring some great burden into a meeting. If you can keep their attention, they will say, "Oh, wasn't it great! I forgot all my cares." They just drop their bundle at the end of the pew; but the moment the benediction is pronounced, they grab the bundle again. You laugh, but you do it yourself. Cast your cares on Him.

Sometimes these people go into their rooms to spend time with God and they close the door. They get so carried away and lifted up that they forget their trouble, but they just pick it up again the moment they get off their knees. Leave your sorrow now. Cast all your cares upon Him. If you can't come to Christ as a saint, come as a sinner. If you're a saint with some trouble or care, bring it to Him. Saint and sinner, come. He wants you all. Don't let Satan deceive you into believing that you can't come if you're willing. Christ says, *And ye will not come to me* (John 5:40).

A man in one of our meetings in Europe said that he would like to come, but he was chained and couldn't come. A Scotsman said to him, "Ay, man, why don't you come chain and all?"

He said, "I never thought of that."

Are you angry and easily irritated? Do you make things unpleasant at home? Come to Christ and ask Him to help you. Whatever your sin is, bring it to Him.

### What Does It Mean to Come?

You say, "Mr. Moody, I wish you'd tell us what it means to come." I've given up trying to explain it. I always feel like the minister who said he was going to *confound*, rather than *expound*, the chapter.

The best definition is simply: come. The more you try to explain it, the more people are confused. About the first thing a mother teaches her child is to look. She takes the baby to the window and says, "Look, baby—Papa is coming!"

Then she teaches the child to come. She props the baby up against a chair and says, "Come!" Sure enough, the little thing pushes the chair along towards mama. That's coming. You don't need to go to college to learn how. You don't need any minister to tell you what it is. Will you come to Christ? He said, *Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out* (John 6:37).

When we have such a promise as this, let us cling to it and never give it up. Christ is not mocking us. He wants us to come with all our sins and backslidings and throw ourselves into His loving arms. It is our sins God wants, not our tears only. Tears alone do no good. And we cannot come through resolutions. Action is necessary. How many times at church have we said, "I will turn over a new leaf," but the Monday leaf is worse than the Saturday leaf.

The way to heaven is straight as a rule, but it is the way of the cross. Don't try to get around it. Do you know what the yoke referred to in Matthew 11 is? It is the cross that Christians must bear. The only way you can find rest in this dark world is by taking up the yoke of Christ.



I don't know what that may include in your case, beyond accepting your Christian duties, acknowledging Christ, and behaving like one of His disciples. Perhaps it may be to erect a family altar, tell a godless husband that you've made up your mind to serve God, or tell your parents that you want to be a Christian. Follow the will of God, and happiness, peace, and rest will come. The way of obedience is always the way of blessing.

I preached in Chicago to a hall full of women one Sunday afternoon. After the meeting was over, a lady came to me and said she wanted to talk to me. She said that she would accept Christ, and after some conversation she went home. I looked for her for a whole week, but didn't see her until the following Sunday afternoon. She came and sat down right in front of me, and her face had such a sad expression. She seemed to have entered into the misery, instead of the joy, of the Lord.

After the meeting was over, I went to her and asked what the trouble was.

She said, "Oh, Mr. Moody, this has been the most miserable week of my life."

I asked her if there was anyone with whom she had trouble and whom she could not forgive.

She said, "No, not that I know of."

"Well, did you tell your friends about

having found the Savior?"

"Indeed I didn't. I've been trying all week to keep it from them."

"Well," I said, "that's the reason you have no peace."

She wanted to take the crown, but did not want the cross. My friends, you must go by the way of Calvary. If you ever get rest, you must get it at the foot of the cross.

She said, "If I go home and tell my unbelieving husband that I found Christ, I don't know what he'll do. I think he would throw me out."

"Well," I said, "then go out."

She went away, promising that she would tell him. She looked timid and pale, but she didn't want another miserable week. She was determined to have peace.

The next night I gave a lecture to men only. In the hall, there were eight thousand men and one solitary woman. When I finished speaking and went to the inquiry room, where I met with those seeking God, I found this lady and her husband. She introduced him to me. He was a doctor and a very influential man. She said, "He wants to become a Christian."

I took my Bible and told him all about Christ, and he accepted Him. I said to her after it was all over, "It turned out quite

differently from what you expected, didn't it?"

"Yes," she replied. "I was never so scared in my life. I expected him to do something horrible, but it turned out so well."

She took God's way and got rest. I want to say to young ladies, perhaps you have a godless father or mother or a skeptical brother who is destroying his life with alcohol. Perhaps there is no one who can reach them but you. Many times a godly, pure, young lady has taken the light into some dark home. Many homes could be lit up with the gospel if the mothers and daughters would only speak the Word.

The last time Mr. Sankey and I were in Edinburgh, there were a father, two sisters, and a brother who read my sermon in the newspaper every morning and picked it to pieces. They were indignant to think that the Edinburgh people should be carried away by such preaching. One day, one of the sisters was going by the hall, and she thought she would drop in and see what kind of people went there.

She happened to take a seat by a godly lady who said to her, "I hope you're interested in this work."

She tossed her head and said, "I am absolutely not. I'm disgusted with everything I've seen and heard."

"Well," said the lady, "perhaps you came with prejudiced against Mr. Moody's teaching."

"Yes, and the meeting has not removed any of it, but reinforced it."

"I have received a great deal of good from them."

"There is nothing here for me. I don't see how an intellectual person can be interested."

To make a long story short, the godly lady got her to promise to come

Continued  
Next Page

back. When the meeting broke up, just a little of the prejudice had worn away. She promised to come back again the next day, and then she attended three or four more meetings. She became quite interested. She said nothing to her family until the burden became too heavy. Then she told them. They laughed at her and made her the object of their ridicule.

One day the two sisters were together, and the other asked, "Now what do you have from those meetings that you didn't already have?"

"I have a peace that I never knew before. I am at peace with God, myself, and all the world. I have self-control. If you said half the mean things before I was converted that you've said since, I would have been angry and answered back, but if you remember correctly, I haven't answered once since I've been converted."

The sister said, "You certainly have something that I don't have." The converted sister told her it was for her, too. She brought her sister to the meetings, and she found peace.

Like Martha and Mary, they had a brother, but he was a member of the University of Edinburgh. Would he be converted? Would he go to the meetings? It might be okay for women, but not for him. One night they came home and told him that a friend of his from the university had stood up and confessed Christ. When he sat down, his brother got up and confessed. Finally, the third brother stood up and confessed Christ.

When the young man heard it, he said, "Do you mean to tell me that he has been converted?"

"Yes."

"Well," he said, "there must be something to it."

He put on his hat and coat, and went to see his friend Black. Black brought him down to the meetings, and he was converted.

We went on to Glasgow, and had not been there six weeks when news came that that young man had become sick and had died. When he was dying, he called his father to his bedside and said, "Wasn't it a good thing that my sisters went to those meetings? Won't you meet me in heaven, Father?"

"Yes, my son. I'm so glad you are a Christian. That is the only comfort I have in losing you. I will become a Christian and will see you again."

I tell this to encourage some sister to go home and carry the message of salvation. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. It may be that your brother will be taken away from you in a few months. We are living in solemn days. Isn't it time for us to get our friends into the kingdom of God? Come, wife, won't you tell your husband? Come, sister, won't you tell your brother? Won't you take up your cross now? The blessing of God will rest on your soul if you will.

I was in Wales once, and a lady told me this little story. An English friend of hers, a mother, had a daughter who was sick. At first they thought there was no danger, until one day the doctor came in and said the symptoms were very serious. He took the mother out of the room and told her that the child would not live. It came like a thunderbolt. After the doctor had gone, the mother went into the room where her daughter lay and

talked to the child, trying to divert her mind.

"Darling, do you know you will soon hear the music of heaven? You will hear a sweeter song than you have ever heard on earth. You will hear them sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. You are very fond of music. Won't it be sweet, darling?"

The little, tired, sick child turned her head away and said, "Oh, Mama, I'm so tired and so sick that I think it would make me worse to hear all that music."

"Well," the mother said, "you will soon see Jesus. You will see the seraphim and cherubim and the streets all paved with gold." She went on picturing heaven as it's described in Revelation.

The little child again turned her head away and said, "Oh, Mama, I'm so tired that I think it would make me worse to see all those beautiful things."

At last, the mother took the child up in her arms and pressed her to her loving heart. The little one whispered, "Oh, Mama, that's what I want. If Jesus will only take me in His arms and let me rest!"

Dear Friend, are you not tired and weary of sin? Are you not weary of the turmoil of life? You can find rest in the arms of the Son of God.

—D. L. Moody

Continued Next Issue

This article was taken from the book *The Overcoming Life* — by D. L. Moody. To order this book, send \$7.00 and your address to Aneko Press, PO Box 652, Abbotsford, WI 54405.

**Self Righteousness or God's Righteousness?** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having **mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the **righteousness which is of God** by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. —**Philippians 3:7-10**

Love. What is love? When most of us think of love, we think of treating someone else kindly and not hurting them. This indeed is love, but is that all? Many confuse love with lust, as well, and think it means having sexual relations with someone. Let's look a little deeper into what all love includes. I will divide it in two, because there are two very different kinds of love.

**Selfish love:** This is the kind of love that all humans initially operate from. There is always an expectation, whether conscious or subconscious, to get something in return when we show love toward someone. When the one to whom we extend love hurts us or doesn't appreciate us and doesn't love us back, the love grows cold.

**God's love:** This is the kind of love God demonstrated to us when He gave His own Son to be sacrificed, to make a way for us to come unto Him. This is the same kind of love He injects into our hearts when we become born again by His Spirit. It does not expect anything in return for the love given because there is no selfish motive in it. It is unconditional love. It is a piece of God Himself.

Even after receiving God's love in our hearts, we make a choice in every encounter we have with God or people as to which love we will operate in. We decide whether we do what we do to gain something for ourselves or because we desire to be obedient to and in unity with the One who gives us unconditional love.

When we operate in the first kind of love, we will do whatever we can to avoid conflict regardless of right and wrong (even though our selfishness often causes conflict with others). We don't want to offend someone or to disrupt the unity. By all means, we don't want to be looked at as a troublemaker or endure the discomfort of having disturbed our peace and tranquility, because our comfort, our reputation, and our peace are what dictate our actions. Our focus is still on earthly things. This kind of person is called a peacekeepers.

When we operate in the second kind of love, our entire focus is on pleasing our Lord and being obedient to Him. When we see someone who is not operating in line with the Word of our Lord, we will go talk to them about it in unconditional love, because we value our relationship with our Lord more than our own comfort and reputation. Our concern for the person will be genuine, so the possibility of offending them with the truth now doesn't even compare with the thought of them being in agony forever. We know what the consequences of their actions will be if they don't turn back, and unconditional love would much rather take the chance of being rejected, hurt, and humiliated by that person than for them to spend eternity in hell.

We know where we stand with our Lord; therefore, we won't be shaken just because of what people say about us. We know, too, that they're not really rejecting us, but they are rejecting God (since we're

just doing what He commanded us to). We understand that they have been blinded by Satan and therefore don't understand the truth. Because we have the same unconditional love for the person as God does, we will do whatever we can to save them from eternal punishment, regardless of what they do to us. It was this kind of love that enabled Jesus to beg God at the very end to forgive the ones who had tortured and killed Him. This kind of person is called a peacemaker (helping people make peace with God).

Ask yourself if you are a peacekeeper or a peacemaker? Are you operating in selfish love or unconditional love?

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

*Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

(Matthew 5:9-13)

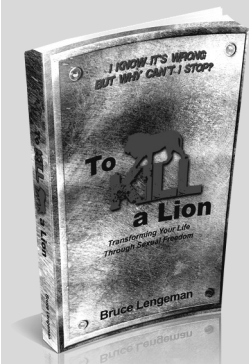
## Do you struggle with lust or other sins and addictions?

*To Kill a Lion*, written by **Bruce Lengeman**, is designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is, "Men cry out, 'I know it is wrong, but why can't I stop?'" *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their own sexuality and what makes it operate "out of alignment" with God's

design. You'll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

**To order, call us at (419) 962-1515 or mail a check to: The Amish Voice, 575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837**

**The price of the book is \$17 (includes S&H).**



be easily turned aside. God is all-powerful and almighty, far above any power that Satan has. God hears and answers prayers today, if we have faith even as small as a mustard seed (Mathew 17:20).

**Who Gets to Go to Heaven?**

The Watchtower Society teaches that only 144,000 people will reign and rule with Christ from heaven, while the rest of the saved will remain here on earth forever. The Watchtower Society originally taught that all JWs will go to heaven, but after their membership increased to more than 144,000 members, they had to change their teachings. They now say that the 144,000 spots in heaven have been given to the most diligent JWs, and the rest of the saved JWs will have to remain on earth.

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also* (John 14:3). Jesus said He's going to prepare a place for us, and all who are invited to the wedding feast will be able to stay, as long as they also have on the wedding garment. This wedding garment

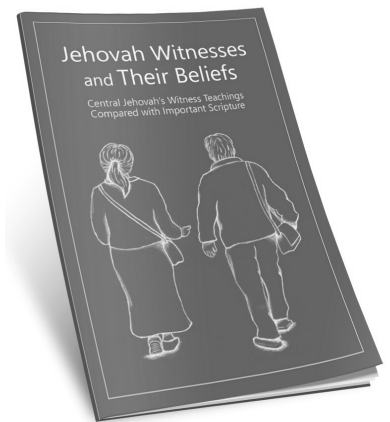
is Jesus Christ; we must have Christ (Mathew 22).

**JWs Are Reaching Out to Plain People**

There is a reason for this. JWs target individuals who are already believers but who may not know the Scriptures very well, yet are hungry for the truth. My neighbor informed me of this strategy and was quite proud of the acceptance that the JWs have with many Mennonites. He said they determined that these types of people were the easiest to reach after years of "evangelism" to millions of people; people in this category were most likely to convert to the JW religion. The JWs are so convinced that the Plain People fit their target group of easy-to-reach individuals that they have translated many of their articles and pamphlets into Pennsylvania Dutch and are starting to target Plain People more than before.

Regarding their teachings, it must be noted that the JWs are well equipped. They know the Watchtower Society teachings very well, and I recommend that you don't get into deep discussions with them unless you are even more equipped with the Truth and understand how to navigate the twisted Watchtower Society teachings.

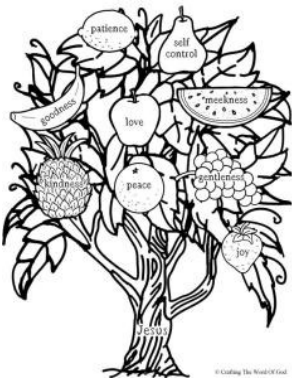
Regardless of which organization tries to win us over, Luke 17:21 is important to remember: *Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* It is not here or there that we can get answers, but by studying God's Word, by praying, and by making sure that we have the Spirit of God within us (*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?* – Luke 11:13). We rest in and have our being in Jesus Christ (Acts 17:28); *let God be true, but every man a liar* (Romans 3:4).



*To order this free booklet, write to us at The Amish Voice, 575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837, or call us at (419) 962-1515.*

**Fruit**

—By Jim Jamison



Galatians 5:22-23 shares with us the *fruit of the Spirit*, and the difference between the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit is that unlike the gifts of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit is not divided among believers. All believers should be marked by each of these characteristics.

The Bible tells us we need the Spirit to bring fruit into our lives because

we cannot produce godliness apart from the Spirit. Two things need to happen in our lives as believers. The sin in our lives need to be thrust out, and the Holy Spirit needs to fill our lives, which will produce this fruit on our lives.

We could illustrate this with a gate in our backyard. The gate can be used for two purposes: It can be opened to let people in, and it can be shut to keep people out. Spiritually our lives are like a gate, inside our lives are all sorts of things that are wrong and displeasing to God. We need to let these things out, and allow the Holy Spirit to come in and control the very center of our lives.

The Holy Spirit not only makes us alive spiritually, but helps us open the gate so that we can thrust out the evil things in our lives. Not only that but the Holy Spirit then strengthens the gate to keep evil out. As we walk in the Spirit we will find these characteristics naturally become apart of our personality. Choose to allow the Spirit to strengthen the gate of your life.

# Feedback and Response Section

1

Hello. Thank you for reaching out to the spiritual needs of our people. May God continue to bless your efforts. Enclosed is a small donation.

I have a suggestion for a future article. I used to think that a submissive wife would quietly go along with what her husband decided, showing little emotion, etc. I have come to realize that

most men do not actually want passive, unemotional wives, but wives who can voice her concern and disagreement in a calm, kind voice—no pouting, etc. And, most importantly, have a smile and a spark (even if he is rather dull), encouraging, praising, and continually surprising him in little ways.

We Amish tend to shy away from flattery, praise, compliments, etc., but

they are so upbuilding.

Encourage the men to express love. Too many of us go through life taking our loved ones for granted and harboring grudges. After they are gone, we are filled with regret. A quote I read somewhere: “The best way to get praise is to die.” —Mrs. WH, OH

[Maybe some *Amish Voice* readers could write an article for us about this.]

Dear Mrs. WH,

Thank you for your kind words and your gift. You are very right. Whether we are husbands, wives, parents, children, friends, employers, employees, or anyone else, we all appreciate smiles, encouragement, praise, pleasant surprises, kind words, love, and appreciation. Let us each try to do this more each day and we will see

relationships change, I think.

This is especially needed among husbands and wives and parents and children. How many wives and husbands never feel appreciated, respected, loved, and special? When was the last time we helped each other without being asked? How many children never hear their parents tell them that they love them or never get a hug from them?

Let us love, forgive, compliment, and appreciate each other, loving God with all our hearts, souls, strength, and minds, and loving others as ourselves.

Give your husband or wife a special hug today, and tell your children that you love them. To all of our readers—send us your stories of how you showed your love and appreciation for others, or how they showed it to you! —Paul Miller

2

Hello. We are just a young family with four children, but we wanted to let you know that we are enjoying the *Amish Voice*, especially the last

couple issues. I can't remember all the titles, as we gave that issue to my parents to read. When my husband finished reading one story about how we should not add to the Bible, he said,

“That is so true!”

May God be with you as we journey onward.

—ALM

Dear ALM,

We are very glad that you are enjoying the *Amish Voice*, and even sharing it with others. How great it is to grow closer to God as a family!

If any of our readers ever want their family members or friends to receive the *Amish Voice*, simply write to us with their names and addresses. Thank you, too, for those who give to us to help us

send the *Amish Voice* out to others. Let us all keep seeking the truth of God's Word and living for Him.

May God bless you as you trust and obey Him!

**We love hearing from you, our readers. We want to hear from all of you—with your suggestions, responses, articles, disagreements, poems, letters, testimonies, ideas, lessons you have learned, or whatever you want to say. Please write to us—and we will try to publish much of what you send. We would love to hear your testimonies of how you have been changed by Jesus and how the *Amish Voice* is helping you grow closer to God.**

**You can write to us at the Amish Voice,  
575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837**

## Receiving duplicate mailings?

Please note your correct name and address and return all labels to the Amish Voice

## Moving?

Please send us your new address

## Not interested in the Amish Voice?

Please remove the label from your newsletter, mail it to 575 US Highway 250, Greenwich, OH 44837, and we will take you off the active list. **Without the label, we are unable to remove your address from the active list.**

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Ashland, Ohio  
Permit No. 188

# Current Resident

## What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Actually Believe? Part 3

—Jeremiah Zeiset

This is part three of a three-part article on the beliefs of the religious group that refers to itself as Jehovah's Witnesses.



### "The New World Translation"—Is it God's Word?

Since the JW's do not believe that Jesus is part of the Trinity (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit) and because of other things they don't like about the Bible, they decided to write their own Bible "translation," which they called the "New World Translation." In this version, they specifically changed many passages that would have revealed who Jesus Christ really is. Most of what they changed has to do with minimizing Jesus – another warning sign of false religions.

*I and my Father are one* (John 10:30); *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father* (John 14:9). It is clear from reading the Bible that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one with God, similar to how a husband and wife are one: they are different

people, yet one at the same time (Ephesians 5:31). There are other passages in the Bible that the Watchtower Society doesn't like either, but if they changed every passage they didn't like, it would be even more apparent that they are a false religion, so they simply either avoid those particular passages or they twist the Scriptures in their teachings.

### What Does it Tell Us When Prophets Are Wrong?

The founder of the JW's, Charles Taze Russell, prophesied that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1914. J. F. Rutherford, who succeeded Russell, prophesied that the world would end in 1925. Both tried to explain themselves out of their situations, but the reality is that they were false prophets, to be avoided at all costs. There are additional end-times events predicted by other JW leaders, all of which proved false.

*When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.* (Deuteronomy 18:22). Satan desires to mislead people in whatever way he can, but fortunately, God also makes sure we are clearly

warned, and if we truly love God and rely on the Holy Spirit more than men, we will not be misled by men.

### Is Satan as Powerful JW's Think?

The Watchtower Society teaches that Satan received his power from the Father and that he has "superhuman power." They even believe that Satan has more power than Jesus does, though this is not taught directly within their literature. Rather, it is something that can be gleaned from spending time with JW's. This is not unlike many others who are fearful of evil rather than having peace in Christ. Some people even go to the extreme of not praying to God for needs because they mistakenly think that God doesn't answer prayers in a real way anymore, but these same people may go to witchdoctors instead, as if Satan had more power than God.

In the end, *They that see thee [Satan] shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?* (Isaiah 14:16). Satan is restrained within the bounds of God; in many ways, God allows him to test us to see if we have faith in God or if we will

Continued on Page 14