



MAP ♦ 575 US Highway 250 ♦ Greenwich, OH 44837 ♦ (419) 962-1515 ♦ July 2020

## The General Epistle of James Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

### INTRODUCTION

**AUTHOR:** Uncertain. Probably James, the Lord's brother. Note these facts.

1. There are three other men named James who are mentioned in the New Testament.
  - ⇒ There was the Apostle James, who was the Son of Zebedee and the brother of the Apostle John. It is almost impossible that he could have been the author, for he was martyred by Herod Agrippa about A.D. 44. This was some years before the letter of James was written.
  - ⇒ There was the Apostle James the less, who was the son of Alpheus and who was also the cousin of Jesus. He is a possibility, but so little is known about him that it is highly unlikely that he is the author.
  - ⇒ There was James, the father of the Apostle Judas (Lu.6:16, KJV). Nothing else is known about this James.
2. James the Lord's brother was well known by all believers everywhere. Being the Lord's brother was enough to give him a world-wide reputation among believers. In addition to this, he was the pastor of the great Jerusalem church which was the mother church of Christianity. Note in verse one, that he simply calls himself James. He needed no other identification; everyone knew the James who was writing the letter. The point is this:
  - ⇒ James, the Lord's brother was so well known that any other James would have had to identify himself to keep from being mistaken as James, the Lord's brother.
3. Some argue that if the author was really James, the Lord's brother, he would have mentioned the fact. A.T. Robertson

has an excellent answer to this position:

*If it be urged that the author of the epistle, if related to Jesus, would have said so, one may reply that a delicate sense of propriety may have had precisely the opposite effect. Jesus had himself laid emphasis on the fact of his spiritual kinship with all believers as more important (Matt.12:48-50). The fact that James during the ministry of Jesus was not sympathetic with His work would also act as a restraining force upon him. The brother of Jesus (see also Jude 1) naturally would wish to make his appeal on the same plane as the other teachers of the gospel. He rejoices in the title of 'servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,' just as Paul did later (Rom.1:1; Phil.1:1; Titus 1:1) and as Jude, the brother of James, did (Jude 1).<sup>1</sup>*

4. The church, from the very earliest of its tradition, has held that the author was James, the Lord's brother. As RVG Tasker says,
 

*The tradition that became established in the Church that the Epistle was not only apostolic but should be attributed to James, the head of the Early Church at Jerusalem, ought undoubtedly to be accepted as true. Not only is it incapable of being scientifically disproved, but it has much intrinsic probability.<sup>2</sup>*
5. The facts about James, the Lord's brother, point toward him being the author.

1. A.T. Robertson. Studies in the Epistle of James. (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1930), p.2.

2 RVG Tasker. The General Epistle of James. "Tyndale New Testament Commentaries." (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), p.21.

- ⇒ He was a brother of the Lord (Mt.13:55; Mk.6:3).
- ⇒ He was an eyewitness of the risen Lord. In fact, the Lord appeared to him in a private conversation (1 Co.15:7). He was among those waiting for the coming of the Spirit in the Upper Room (Ac.1:14).
- ⇒ He was an apostle. He was probably appointed after his private encounter with the risen Lord (Ga.1:19).
- ⇒ He became the pastor of the great Jerusalem Church. He probably assumed his duties when Peter left on his missionary journeys (Ac.12:17; etc.). Thereafter, he is by far the greatest personality in the Jerusalem Church.
- ⇒ He was the first one told about Peter's release from prison (Ac.12:17).
- ⇒ He was the presiding officer over the great Jerusalem Council (Ac.15).
- ⇒ He was called a pillar of the church along with Peter and John. Paul was forced to discuss his ministry among the Gentiles with him as well as with Peter and John (Ga.1:19; 2:9).
- ⇒ He was the one who received the offerings brought by Paul from the Gentile churches to help the Jerusalem saints (Ac.21:18-25).
- ⇒ He was well versed in the Old Testament (see Ac.15:15f; book of James).
- ⇒ He was familiar with Jesus' teachings. The epistle has around twenty quotations from the Sermon on the Mount alone.

**DATE:** Uncertain. Probably A.D. 45-50.

The date is disputed. Some say it is one of the earliest writings, perhaps the earliest. Others say it is a later writing. However, the arguments for the earlier date seem to fit the book more readily.

1. The church is still described in its primitive form. The word "assembly" (Greek, synagogue) is used instead of church (Js.2:2), and the elders of the church are mentioned, but the deacons and bishops are not (Js.5:14).
2. There is no mention of the Jewish-Gentile controversy nor of the great church council held in Jerusalem in A.D. 50 (Ac.15).

3. The book is a picture of what primitive Christianity meant to a Jew converted to Christ. It leaves one with the sense of birth-pangs, of a great transition occurring from a Jewish to a Christian way of life.

**TO WHOM WRITTEN:** "To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." It was written to Christians of the dispersion (diaspora). The word dispersion simply means to the Jews scattered around the world.

**PURPOSE:** James had two purposes for writing.

1. To correct a corrupted faith that was rapidly seeping into the church. Many were professing faith in Christ, but living immoral and unrighteous lives. Their faith was profession only—a faith of license with little or no restraint upon behavior.
2. To present the true faith of Christ: a faith of the heart—a faith that produces outward fruit. James's point is very simple: a person is known to be a Christian only by his behavior. What he does proves one of two things: it proves he is a Christian or it proves he is not a Christian.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

1. James is "A General or Catholic Epistle." That is, it is not written to a specific church or individual, but rather, it is written to all Christian believers. James is written particularly to all Jewish converts.
2. James is "The Epistle of the Royal Law." That is, it is the epistle stressing the necessity for loving one's neighbor as oneself. The law of Moses is called the law of liberty (Js.2:8-12).
3. James is "The Epistle of Sermon Notes." The characteristics of the Jewish and Greek sermons of that day are found throughout James. The epistle seems to be a collection of sermon notes centered around the theme of trials and temptations.
4. James is "The Epistle of Practical Living" or "The Epistle of the Second Stage." Its concern is the life of the believer after he has become a Christian and has been assured of his salvation. The thrust is Christian growth.

This publishing work is registered as a charitable organization in the USA. 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 of 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, Executive Director

## CHAPTER 1

### GREETING: THE SERVANT OF GOD ADDRESSES BELIEVERS WORLDWIDE, 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

1. The servant of God, James
2. The believers scattered all over the world

## GREETING: THE SERVANT OF GOD ADDRESSES BELIEVERS WORLDWIDE

### James 1:1

#### INTRODUCTORY STUDY:

#### THE SERVANT OF GOD WRITES TO BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE

**TEXT:** James 1:1

**AIM:** To live and be known as a servant of Christ.

#### MEMORY VERSE:

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting”* (James 1:1).

#### INTRODUCTION:

Apart from your job, your hobbies, and your achievements, think about this question: What are you known for—you personally? The answer to this question will likely reveal whether you are motivated toward spiritual things. Do people think of you as someone who regularly attends church? Is it common to find you:

- ⇒ working in the local church?
- ⇒ witnessing to others?
- ⇒ helping others in various ways?
- ⇒ reaching out and ministering to those in need?

The introduction to the book of James is a most interesting passage of Scripture. It tells us some facts about one of the brothers of the Lord Jesus, facts about a person who lived with Jesus day by day and had the opportunity to notice what kind of life He lived. The passage is also a dynamic challenge to us. The powerful example of love and evangelism left by the Apostle James leads us to an inescapable and urgent question: What would happen if we gave our hearts to world missions and to reach the lost with the same degree of love that James did? Note two points in verse one:

#### OUTLINE:

1. The servant of God, James (v.1).
2. The believers scattered all over the world (v.1).

## 1. THE SERVANT OF GOD, JAMES (v.1).

James was apparently so well-known among the believers throughout the world that no title was needed other than his name. This points rather strongly toward his being James, the Lord’s brother. Note two touching and very important facts about what James says.

1. He simply calls himself James, “a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” He is a world renowned leader among God’s people. Yet his glory is not in the title of his position, but in the fact that he is a servant of God and of Christ. Despite his position and worldwide reputation, what matters to him most is the intimacy of his relationship to God and his Lord. This is clearly seen when the word servant is understood, for the meaning of the word shows that James deliberately chose the word to describe his relationship to the Lord.

The word “servant” here means far more than just serving a person or group of people. It means to be a slave totally possessed by the master. It means to be a bondservant bound by law to a master. A look at the slave-market of James’s day shows more clearly what James meant when he said he was a “slave of Jesus Christ.”

- a. The slave was owned and totally possessed by his master. James was purchased and possessed by Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ had looked upon him and had seen his rebellious and needful condition. And when Christ looked, the most wonderful thing happened: Christ loved him and bought him; therefore, he was now the possession of Christ.
- b. The slave existed for his master and he had no other reason for existence. He had no personal rights whatsoever. James’s rights were the rights of Christ only.
- c. The slave served his master and he existed only for the purpose of service. James lived only to serve Christ—hour by hour and day by day.
- d. The slave’s will belonged to his master. He was allowed no will and no ambition other than the will and ambition of the master. James was completely obedient to the will of the master. James belonged to Christ.
- e. There is a fifth and most precious thing that James meant by “a slave of Jesus Christ.” He meant that he had the highest and most honored and kingly profession in all the world. Men of God, the greatest men of history, have always been called “the servants of God.” It is the highest title of honor. The believer’s slavery to Jesus Christ is no cringing, cowardly, shameful subjec-

tion. It is the position of honor—the honor that bestows upon a man the privileges and responsibilities of serving the King of kings and Lord of lords.

*“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour”* (Jn.12:26; see Ro.12:1; 1 Co.15:58). *“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing”* (Ps.100:2).

#### ILLUSTRATION:

The great violinist, Nicolo Paganini, willed his marvelous violin to Genoa—the city of his birth—but only on condition that the instrument never be played. It was an unfortunate condition, for it is a peculiarity of wood that as long as it is used and handled, it shows little wear. As soon as it is discarded, it begins to decay. The exquisite mellow-toned violin now has become worm-eaten in its beautiful case, valueless except as a relic. The moldering instrument is a reminder that a life withdrawn from service to others loses its meaning.

James’s strong emphasis upon service is illustrated well! In order to retain our value and our worth and not degenerate into a worthless relic, we should serve and remain active. *“But whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister. And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant* (Matt.20:26, 27).”<sup>3</sup>

2. James says that Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, was the Lord Jesus Christ. By “Lord” he meant God.

⇒ The word Lord is frequently used in the Old Testament Scripture to mean God.<sup>4</sup>

⇒ By “Christ” he meant the Messiah, the anointed Savior whom God had promised down through the centuries.

Just imagine the daily, monthly, and yearly contact James had with Jesus, and still James calls Him...

- the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord and Christ of the Old Testament Scriptures the Lord of glory (Js.2:1)
- the Lord who is coming again (Js.5:7)
- the Lord whose coming draws near (Js.5:8)

The point is this: James is saying that the Lord Jesus Christ is God, the very Son of God who is equal to God the Father. He is saying that his brother, Jesus the carpenter from Nazareth, is of the very nature and character of God, of the very being and essence of God.

3 Ted Kyle and John Todd. *A Treasury of Bible Illustrations*. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1995), #150.

4 A.T. Robertson. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol.6. (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), p.10.

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Ac.2:36).

## QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be a “servant” of Jesus Christ? Are you one?
2. In what ways has God called you to be a servant of Jesus Christ?

## 2. THE BELIEVERS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE WORLD (v.1).

The believers James was writing to were everywhere, in all parts of the known world. But note two significant points.

1. First, James is writing to a specific group of believers: the believers of the twelve tribes of Israel. How could this be when the twelve tribes had been scattered all over the world and had lost their identity?

This very fact gives us the answer. James is not writing to each of the tribes of Israel; he is writing to all the tribes of Israel—to all Jews wherever they might be. He is referring to all Israel, not wanting a single Jew to feel left out of his message. As the brother of the Lord Jesus Christ and as the pastor of the great Jerusalem church, what he had to say was imperative for all to hear and heed.

2. Second, James loved his people with an unusual love. They were deeply rooted in his heart, and he felt a strong calling to reach out and exhort them in the Lord. This is the very reason he was writing to them. Just think—his letter could be passed from church to church and from synagogue to synagogue all over the world. James either laid out the plans and followed through in seeing that the plans were carried out or else the Holy Spirit gave him assurance that his letter would be spread to all the Jews scattered across the world. James had some indication that he would be reaching all Jews, and his heart longed to reach the millions from the twelve tribes scattered all over the earth.

The point to see is the love and the evangelistic heart James had for his people. True, he was writing primarily to Jewish believers, but he was also doing what he said: sending greetings to the twelve tribes scattered abroad. What he says is applicable to all believers of all generations.

**APPLICATION:** What a dynamic example for us of love and true evangelism. What would happen if our own hearts beat with the same degree of love and evangelism—the compassion to reach the lost and suffering people of our communities, cities, and nations? Look at the worldwide compassion of James. He

was making an attempt to reach his people all over the world. Where is the heart for missions today? Where is the person who will totally give his or her heart to world missions and evangelism?

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Ac.1:8).*

**ILLUSTRATION:** The Apostle James was one of the first martyrs, paying the ultimate price for being a follower of Christ. People like that do not just talk about being servants; they show that they are servants—they live it.

[Some years after James was martyred] a brilliant man named Tertullian said that it was not arguments that converted him to Christianity, because he could counter any point. [Tertullian’s revealing testimony was:] “But they demonstrated something I didn’t have. The thing that converted me to Christianity was the way they loved each other.”<sup>5</sup>

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Even though James wrote to first century Jewish Christians, how does his message apply to believers of all times?
2. How can you follow James’s example of love and evangelism?

**SUMMARY:**

A person may have many duties and obligations, but for believers, one is first in importance, of the very highest priority. As believers, we have the duty to live out the gospel, that is, to tell about it with both our words and our lives. We must bear testimony that Jesus has made a way for every person to be a part of His family. The Apostle James is a shining example of the kind of servant we all need to be. We must, as James did, identify ourselves as...

1. Servants of God.
2. Believers among all believers worldwide.

**PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES:**

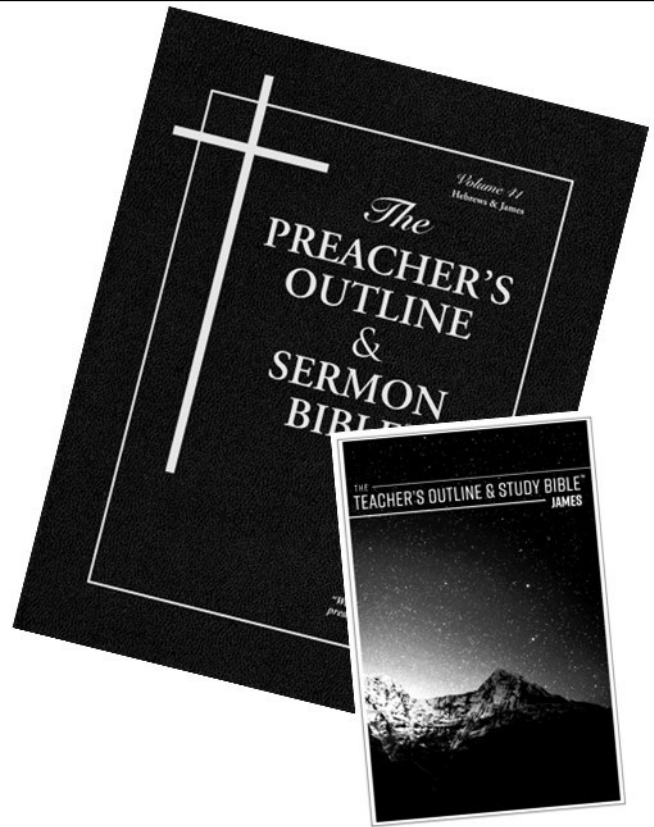
(Reflection and Response)

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The thing that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Prayer of Commitment:

5. G. Curtis Jones. 1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching. (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1986), p.220.

**END**

The previous article was taken from *The Teacher’s Outline & Study Bible*. If you would like a copy for your own use, please use the order form below.



Prepare lessons or study from *The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible®* or *The Teacher’s Outline & Study Bible™* to:

- Teach with confidence
- Save time
- Have verse-by-verse outlines
- Study commentary, support scriptures and applications
- Deliver more content to those listening

- Yes, I want to order today! Send me:
- Hebrews & James—of the Preacher’s series** Sale Price ~~\$31.99~~  
\$39.99
- James—of the Teacher’s series** \$17.99

Add shipping for each book ordered \$ 4.99

Please include tax only for TN 9.25% or SC 6% \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Call **1.800.987.8790** for more information or send check or Money order to **Leadership Ministries Worldwide**  
1928 Central Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37408

It has been said, women talk more than men. That, of course, is not the case at my house. I'm the talker. Esther is the listener.

According to BBC and their research, women use an average of 20,000 words a day, compared to the mere 7,000 that men utter. If their research holds water, women speak nearly three times more than men. Not that it matters at all, I just found this interesting as I began the following study.

In chapter 3 of James, starting in verse 5, we can read:

- The tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things.
- The tongue is a fire.
- Every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Impossible to tame! Unruly! Full of deadly poison!

Those are some pretty strong words, wouldn't you say!?

Furthermore, James writes... we bless God out of one side of our mouths while cursing His creation and the people He loves out of the other side of our mouths (James 3:10)

Solomon writes in Prov 18... *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."*

If Solomon is right, and I believe he is, you and I have the ability and power to speak death into situations and other people. We also have the ability to speak life into them. That is some powerful stuff, my friend! Mind boggling!

What if, when we die, we find out that many of our positive and negative experiences in life were directly connected to,

and the result of words that we spoke out loud?

Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37:

*"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*



Please don't read into this too much, but I've been thinking:

1. Once our words are released into the atmosphere, we can never take them back. They go on to make a *positive* or *negative* impact in our world and those around us.
2. By the spoken word alone, God created something out of nothing—He spoke into existence the entire universe and all it contains. We don't always think about it, but right on the heels of speaking creation into existence, God also spoke reproduction into existence—meaning, after creating the original fish, bird, vegetation and human race, He would never create again—instead, His creation would automatically reproduce after it's own kind. It doesn't say He used His hands. He just spoke it and it was so.

It appears, after creation and reproduction

began, God sat back and rested. That was at least 6,000 years ago and Hebrews says He is still resting. (See Hebrews 4:10.)

Far too many people, who don't realize the power of their own words, are talking themselves to death. They speak forth whatever negative thing they feel or have been told, and don't realize that they are signing their own death warrants.

This is not only true of the words we speak; every word we hear produces either life or death. We not only have to pay attention to the words we speak; we also need to turn away from the words of death that others speak:

God said in Philippians 4:8, focus only on (1) things that are true, (2) things that are honest, (3) things that are just, (4) things that are pure, (5) things that are lovely, (6) things that are of good report, (7) things with virtue, and (8) praise. - think on these things.

Lastly, words are weapons, and we have to condemn the negative words spoken against us.

*"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn..."* (Isaiah 54:17).

From experience, I've learned that when someone speaks negative words over me or around me, if I counter them right then, they lose their power. But if I wait until later, possibly because I don't want to offend, then it takes time to get those words out of my mind. They start germinating nearly instantly. Therefore, I try my best to condemn negative words when I hear them. We have to do this. The Lord doesn't do this for us.

In conclusion, let us both consider David's prayer, when he said: *"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips"* (Psalm 141:3).

## The Woman, A Helper

—by Norma Miller

This message is for the girls:

In the beginning, our perfect God created a perfect, beautiful world. Each time He created something new, He sat back and observed His new creation, and felt satisfied. He said, "*It is very good.*"

This changed when He created man. The man was created perfectly in God's image. And it was good, but when God observed His perfect creation this time, He did not say it was very good. He saw something was missing. Something was not complete. That "something" was a mate. God said it wasn't good for the man to be alone.

So God created a helper for the man. Girls, when God created you to be a "helper," he meant your husband wasn't complete without you. He saw that man being alone was not a good thing. God created the woman to fill the lack the man experienced, and the man fills the lack the woman experienced.

I want to focus on the word 'helper' for a bit. In Genesis 2, we see that God created a helper suitable for the man. When Adam saw Eve, he said, "*This is now bone*

*of my bones and flesh of my flesh.*" The two of them became one. She was a helper and a companion for him.

A companion is a close friend, one who does life together with someone, a team member. Girls, this is what you are designed to be for your husband. God created you to complete him. To fill a void. To be a close friend. To be someone with a voice in his life. To supply a lack. You were taken from his rib - beneath his arm, so that he can protect you and hold you close; near his heart, so you can be loved. You were not taken from his head to do his thinking for him. You were not taken from his hand so he could control you. You were not taken from his foot to be his doormat. You were taken from a piece of bone designed to protect vital organs. Near his heart.

As women, we are designed to be team members, to be a voice. The word 'helper' used in Genesis is 'Ezer Kenegdo.' This is the same word used in the New Testament when we are told the Holy Spirit is our helper. You have an intuition and a discernment, as a woman, that God strategically placed inside you

for a reason. You must learn to trust that intuition. To not trust it, is to reject a part of yourself that is God's image. The man is not the only one created in God's image. You were too. As our husbands need us, we need them. Both of us carry part of God's image. Both parts are needed to walk in unity in order to depict a picture of a holy and complete, perfect God.

The enemy of our souls has been out from day one to prevent this from happening and he uses all kinds of tactics. My main point today is that one of the main ways he keeps us from depicting a picture of a holy God is by convincing women that they have no voice, no options, no value. It is the farthest thing from the truth. Why did God create woman? Because His creation was not complete without her!

You, my friend, are a very important and integral part of God's design. There is no giving of new life without you. There is no marriage without you. There is no nurturing heart without you.

You are woman. You are beautiful. And you are valuable. You have a voice.

## Does God Care?

—by Ernie Yoder

"I cry to you God, but you do not answer. I stand before you, and you don't even bother to look," screamed Job in desperation. Many of God's people have endured intense suffering; even David, a man after God's own heart. There are times when the faith of God's people is hanging on a thread. Yes, God's people are tested for His honor and His glory.

Imagine on a certain sunny afternoon in Palestine, there are three people, each hanging on a cross since 9:00 AM. You notice how the One on the middle cross is covered with blood and spittle, and has whip welts all over Him. You see deep gashes where His flesh stands wide open. You think, "Well, where is His Dad? Doesn't anyone care for this Man?" Then, He pulls Himself up with His arms, and cries out with a loud voice, "*MY GOD!!... MY GOD!!... WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?*"

You wait for an answer, but there is none. Only silence, except for people going about their business, as usual. You know the Father could have ended the suffering within a split second, yet He silently observed. I believe this is where there was silence in heaven. All of heaven was observing, with full knowledge that God could stop this suffering in a heartbeat. Would God actual-

ly allow His Son to go all the way to death, so that you and I could be with Him forever and ever? Does He really love you and me that much? Indeed, He does!!

Notice, Jesus didn't cry out, "My Father." He cried out, "MY GOD." Do you think that He was suffering more than just physical pain? Was He disconnected with His Father? Do you think His Father was suffering as well?

- How can a good God be all-powerful and allow suffering?
- How do we deal with unanswered prayer?
- Where is God when we hurt?

How do you think Jesus would answer these questions? He truly understands our sufferings more than we can imagine. Can you hear His whisper, "Don't give up...it will be worth it."

My question to you, dear reader, "Are you willing to trust God when you suffer (unfairly), and it seems He remains silent?"

Does He care? Oh yes, He cares!!

—Ernie Yoder, from Tuscola, IL  
Ernie passed away from cancer a few years ago.

# Feedback and Response

From a reader:

*The Amish Voice* seems to have a fairly modern teaching and views. I also am concerned that you would promote voting to such a level, if the scriptures teach us to remain separate from the world. -ARH

ARH,

Thank you for your letter and your concerns. I will try to share with you our perspective on these things.

Regarding a fairly modern teaching and views: You are right. We certainly hope our teaching applies to our modern culture, for that is what God intended. Just as the prophets took the writings of Moses and applied them to their culture, just as Jesus and the apostles took the Old Testament and applied it to their culture, just as Jakob Ammon and Martin Luther took the Holy Scriptures and applied it to their culture, so we desire to take the Word of God and apply it to our culture—not with new teachings, for our standard and source is not anything new, but the tried and true Word of God. The articles in *The Amish Voice* might often be written by people who are alive and well today, but just as it has been throughout history, we want to take the same Bible and teach God’s same truths.

Regarding voting: Yes, we are emphasizing it now, because an election is coming up that may have serious consequences for our nation, for Christians, for the unborn, and for many others. As with Esther, maybe it is “for such a time as this” that we are here to vote for leaders that may protect Christians rather than oppose God’s Word. Our sinful society seems to no longer be one in which we have many godly candidates, but is more often a battle between the forces of good and evil. God has blessed us in this nation with the privilege of choosing our own leaders, and if we decide to not take advantage of that freedom, and willingly allow the wicked to lead, then their sins are required at our hands.

If you sincerely seek God and His Word and believe that it is a sin to vote based upon the Bible, then you are free to not vote; however, it is not good to condemn all others who seek God and make a conscious and informed decision to vote. As the apostle Paul said, “*Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the*

*judgment seat of Christ. . . . So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*” (Romans 14:10, 12).

Regarding being separate from the world: Most certainly the Bible teaches this. However, I’m sure as you read the Bible, you see that God is talking more about the inward person—the heart—than outward conformity.

Jesus, Martin Luther, Jakob Ammon, and others did not dress differently than those around them. Jesus did not teach that everyone had to dress like Moses, but that our hearts should be different than those of the world. Our desires, thoughts, words, and actions should be different than those who do not love God. Jesus taught that we can look different on the outside yet be filthy on the inside. If the inside is clean, the outside will be too. The apostle John did not teach that one could not use the inventions of their day, but taught that the heart should be different—that we should not love the world or the things of the world. Luther did not teach that we had to dress like the Israelites in Jesus’s day, but that our hearts should be pure and we should go to the Scriptures rather than the teachings of man.

—Paul Miller



**AMISH PAC**  
Plain Voters Project

**ISSUES ON THE BALLOT IN 2020:**

- ✓ LATE-TERM ABORTION
- ✓ BUSINESS REGULATION
- ✓ RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
- ✓ JUDGES

**REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY**

**QUESTIONS?**

**CALL 717-690-1620**

**FOR THE AMISH PAC HOTLINE**

**YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS  
YOUR PRAYERS,  
AND YOUR VOTE!**

Paid for by Amish PAC. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

**Learn more: [AmishPAC.com/vote](https://AmishPAC.com/vote)**



# Obey the Higher Powers...Today?

—by John Weaver

What is the right thing for a Christian to do when the government asks us to do things that we would rather not do? In the last few months, we have seen our rights being taken away like never before in history. So many things don't pass the smell test.

Some people are told that you must wear a face mask. For others, it's stay at home. Some are told you must close your business. For some, church services are forbidden. What? In the United States? Many good, sincere, law abiding people are perplexed. Should we obey everything the government asks from us? Even if we are uncomfortable doing so?

Most importantly, what does God want you to do? Many go to, or are pointed to Romans 13. "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.*" Pretty straight forward, isn't it?... except that it's not.

It is extremely important that we understand what is meant by 'higher powers,' and also what it means to be 'subject to the higher powers.' I will use the famous court case, 'Yoder vs Wisconsin,' to bring this out. In the early 1960s, an Amish man refused to send his children to high school. Even after the local school board took him to court and he lost, he still refused. The case ended up in a higher court, and he lost again. I don't know how many times it went to a higher court, but I know Yoder lost the case every time... until it ended up at the Supreme Court - the highest court in the land. There, every one of the judges voted against what the lower courts had ruled, and what had been illegal all along was changed. Now, all at once, Yoder was no longer in disobedience. He was now subject to the higher powers, and was in compliance.

Let's look at what we face today. We still

need to be subject to the higher powers. God's word still stands. How many of you would obey if we are told we must get a certain vaccine? What about if that vaccine includes a tiny chip?

What if we are told we cannot hold



church services? What if the church is told they must turn over the names of everyone who attends church to the government? (It is happening right now in at least one place.) This often turns into a debate between 'obeying them that have the rule over us,' and verses like 'not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,' etc.

Let me tell you that the people who are giving these executive orders are also subject to their higher powers - just as in the Yoder case. When a higher court ruled differently, the lower court's decision was void. It no longer had any power. So if our governor says we will be fined for holding a church service, and we disobey... who is in the wrong?

When this country was formed, the founding fathers spent a lot of time trying to prevent tyranny from the government that they were forming. They came up with a document that is called The Constitution. Many people have never even read it, but all citizens of the United States have benefited from it.

It says that all of us are born with certain God-given rights, and that no governor,

nor president, nor any court shall take away those rights. On religious freedom, it says that congress shall make no laws prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

Today, we see these rights being trampled on. The governors who are making executive orders in opposition to the higher powers are the ones who are in disobedience. Attorney General Barr has warned the governors to not disregard The Constitution. He has intervened where certain mayors had arrested people for going to church, etc.

Attorney General Barr is a much higher authority than the mayors or governors.

So, it's not a straightforward thing to just obey the local authorities, if what they ask us to do is in opposition to what the higher powers want. The local authorities (even governors) are in the wrong and so are we if we obey the lower authorities instead of the higher.

I think just about all of you folks would agree that we must obey God rather than man. God is our ultimate authority. He is not only the higher power; He is the highest power.

Let us obey God rather than man. But when not in conflict with God's laws, we need to be subject to the higher powers of man's laws. Thankfully our president, our attorney general, and our constitution are all in favor of preserving the rights of the citizens to freely exercise religion.

I realize that not everyone may agree with what I have tried my best to convey. You have that right, but for me, I choose to obey the higher powers, and that may mean to disobey some of the lower powers. I am open to hearing your thoughts - pro or con. May God bless. And may God heal our land. Amen.

Recently, I wrote about Jesus being the answer to the horrific abuse that goes on in our Anabaptist communities. While I firmly believe that, I also believe that there is much ignorance and silence about it. This is not helping the situation. In fact, I would say that the secrecy, silence, and ignorance is only compounding sexual abuse in conservative communities.

If we are going to stand up and fight for our children, we are going to have to ditch some misconceptions about sexual abuse that are widely believed in our culture. Here are a few of them:

### **“Sexual abuse doesn’t happen in our community.”**

I’ll admit that when I hear this one, I usually chalk that community up as being infested with sexual abuse. Some Anabaptist communities don’t have as many cases, but it’s safe to say that those communities are in the minority. When people refuse to talk about abuse, (its effects, the symptoms, etc.), it thrives.

### **“I was abused as a girl, but it didn’t affect me.”**

My heart drops to the floor when someone tells me this or something similar. It is the equivalent of saying, “I was run over by a train, but it didn’t hurt me.” The person who makes this statement is in a lot of pain, but doesn’t know it or doesn’t want to acknowledge it. It is hard to say, “I was abused and it hurt,” but we really won’t find healing until we choose to acknowledge the pain.

### **“My children will tell me if something like that ever happens to them.”**

Really? I hope so. I really do. It’s just that they don’t often tell you right after the incident. Sometimes it takes years until the incident is disclosed. There are many reasons for this. Often, a perpetrator will use threats to get a child to be silent. (“If you tell anybody about

this, I’ll hurt your mom,” or, “It’ll be worse for you next time if you tell anybody what happened.”) Sometimes the child simply blocks the memory. This is especially true in young children, but does happen to adults too. If you have a bad car accident, you may not remember it at all for years. It’s the same way with abuse. That is why it is so important for parents, school teachers, ministers, etc., to know the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse.

### **“But that was just curiosity.”**

Children are curious. They explore themselves. I’m not talking about that. I’m talking about performing sexual acts on themselves or with dolls, playmates, etc. Children imitate what they’ve seen or experienced. They do not come up with sexual acts on their own.

### **“My children are safe because they don’t have contact with registered sex offenders or kidnappers.”**

Teaching your children about “stranger danger” is good, but the problem is that 90% of children who have been abused know, and at one time trusted, their abusers. Only 10% were kidnapped or did not know their perpetrator previous to the abuse.

### **“Children lose their innocence when they learn about their bodies and reproduction.”**

May I be blunt? Ignorance is not innocence. Ignorant children are a perpetrator’s dream. “Innocence” has more to do with how the child finds out what they know about the “facts of life” than with what they know. Parents, if you don’t teach your children about their bodies when they are young, they will find out in other ways. Knowing appropriate names for their body parts at two years old is not too young. Teach them what to do in a bad situation.

Simply saying “Keep your dress down,” does no good when the girl is forced to. Do you want to be in charge of your child’s sex education or would you rather hand that responsibility to an older cousin?

### **“I want to protect my girls.”**

Dear mama, I admire you for this. But please don’t protect only your girls. Many, many little boys are being used and abused in horrible ways. Watch and protect them too, please.

### **“But...women and children don’t abuse children, do they?”**

I wish I could say, “No.” The truth is, not only men/boys abuse children. Anyone who has been abused has the potential to become a perpetrator. This is true for men and women of all ages. Children who have been abused themselves will often abuse other children without realizing what they are doing. Hurt people hurt other people. And so the abuse cycle continues to wreck lives.

### **“Children lie about sexual abuse sometimes.”**

No. Don’t go there. Children do not have the sexual knowledge needed to fabricate a false story involving sexual abuse. They may not get all the details right (place, person, etc.) due to mind blocks or disassociation when they disclose an experience. But that does not mean that their story isn’t true or shouldn’t be believed.

### **“She/He says they liked it. So it wasn’t abuse.”**

Wrong. God made our bodies to respond sexually. A child’s body is no exception. Just because a child “liked” it doesn’t mean it wasn’t abuse. ANYTHING that is done to a minor or person who cannot/does not consent for the sake of another’s sexual pleasure is considered abuse. This includes much more than “just” rape.

Continued on Next Page

Touching over or under clothes, exposing a child's body, exposing a child to porn or adult nakedness, forcing a child to perform sexual acts such as oral sex, making sexual comments to young children, and any kind of vaginal, oral, or anal penetration all falls under sexual abuse.

In conclusion, if we as Conservative Anabaptists want to make a dent in the horrific epidemic of sexual abuse that plagues our communities, we are going to have to dig our heads out of the sand. We are going to have to talk about hard things with our children. The silence and ignorance only cultivates a culture of

secrets. We are going to have to do things differently than they've been done previously.

Let's start by dispelling these myths that are engrained in our culture. Not only for our sake, but for the sake of our children and grandchildren. May God help us.

## A Second Chance Love Story

—by Eli Lee

For those of you who like love stories and second chances, you will want to read this incredible love story. It is the greatest love story ever told!

God created the heavens and the earth and everything that was in them, and He saw that it was good—because everything worked just the way that He programmed it to work.

Then, He created humans in His own image, and gave them free will. He loved them and gave them free will because He wanted them to choose for themselves to love Him, not just love Him because He programmed them to do so.

To illustrate, here is an example: A certain man programmed his computer to say, "I love you, Daddy," whenever he walked into the room. The same man had a child who truly loved him, and would look him in the eyes whenever he entered the room and say, "I love you Daddy." Which one do you think affected the man's heart the most?

In the same way that this man made his computer say and do what he commanded, so God made all of the rest of His creation. All of the animals, the plants, the trees, the oceans, the earth, and the entire universe obey the commands that God gives them. They have all been obeying Him perfectly for thousands of years. He has plenty of programmed worship. He desired for the beings that He made to look like Himself to make their own choice to love Him.

God created a heavenly place for them on the earth and provided them with every-

thing that they needed. He walked with them and talked with them in the Spirit. His desire was that they would choose to love Him, because He knew that if they loved Him, they would also do what He told them.

God gave them one command, and told them that the consequences for disobedience was death. They didn't have a problem keeping that command, until they were tempted to question God's word. Satan told them a secret on how to become like God (which was a lie). In order to receive what Satan promised, they had to disobey God's command. With that temptation, they had to make a decision whose word they would believe.

God had put in them a desire to be more like their Father, just like He puts into every child's heart a desire to be like their daddy. This desire was not a bad thing. The real issue was, whose word would they believe?

We know the story. They chose poorly. They chose to believe the deceiver's word over the word of their Father, who created them and gave them life. Their bad choice had staggering consequences! Not only did they die a spiritual death that day, they would now also have to die a physical death, because God, in his mercy, didn't want them to stay in that horrible state for eternity.

Because they chose to believe Satan's word over God's, they were now doomed to go with Satan to hell. It was the most hopeless day of all time for the human race. Why didn't they just believe God?

He had such great and awesome plans for them!

God's heart was broken. He had given His beloved creation free will so they would love Him by their own choice, but they chose to doubt Him and believed Satan instead. Satan was God's enemy, and had already received his sentence for his rebellion against God. Because of this, he was extremely angry at God, and jealous that the humans were loved by Him. In his cunning craftiness, he had gotten the humans to side with him, and by doing so, he also stole the dominion over the whole world and everything that was in it away from man. It was a dark day, with absolutely no hope for the human race. They had chosen death instead of life.

God still loved the humans even though they had made this horrendous mistake, because He made them in His own image. He was not willing to let them perish with Satan. He wanted to give them another chance to choose life, but He had already told them that if they disobeyed Him, the consequences would be death. Because God is a just God, he could not simply overlook the error. He had to deal with it the way He had established it. How could He possibly give them another chance, since the verdict was disobedience equals death?..... It had to be death.

The Son of God, being full of love and mercy, seeing the heart wrenching sadness of His Father, and also not being willing that all people would be lost, said,

Continued on Page 13

## Sermons and Testimonies over the Phone

Call in and listen to a variety of topics that cover 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!

### July

#### **Better Together, Part 7 - Sex and Romance**

We are called to cleave to our partner. Intimacy and romance in marriage is God-ordained. Intimacy and romance honor your wife and your husband. (Message by Duane Sheriff.)

#### **Better Together, Part 8 - Sex**

The only safe sex is sex within marriage. Sex should be an expression of our love for one another. Sex is not love, but rather an expression of love. There is sex without love, but no love in marriage without intimacy. (Message by Duane Sheriff.)

#### **Overcoming Emotions that Destroy - Rage: Understanding the Monster Within, Part 1**

What can turn a normal, rational person into an out-of-control monster—destroying relationships, abusing children, spewing threats, and alienating lifelong friends? Join Chip Ingram as he reveals the source of that devastating power, and how to keep it under control.

#### **Making Daily Choices to Love Your Spouse**

Ron and Deb DeArmond discuss the importance of being intentional when it comes to loving your spouse, and offer practical suggestions for how you can do so in a conversation based on their book, *I Choose You Today: 31 Choices to Make Love Last*. (Message from Focus on the Family.)

### August

#### **Overcoming Emotions that Destroy - Rage: Understanding the Monster Within, Part 2**

Everyone struggles with anger - period! We struggle in different ways: some blow up, some spew, and some repress. So, is it possible to keep anger from getting the best of us? Join Chip Ingram as he uncovers what causes our anger.

#### **Getting to Know the Real You - Part 1**

Do you know who you really are? Your true identity? There is more to you than what you see in the mirror. The thumb print of God is throughout your DNA. Listen and discover who you really are. (Message by Duane Sheriff.)

### You Are Dearly Loved by God

Some people assume Paul only preaches hard sermons, but this sermon on Christ's love for the church from Song of Solomon shows this assumption to be false. Often Paul has to preach to unregenerate people that are members of a church. Here, in this sermon, he preaches to the true Christian about God's love for him. (Message by Paul Washer.)

### The Cross: Our Bridge to God

Between God and mankind there stretches a great chasm. What caused this painful separation, and how do we overcome it? The Father bridged the gap through the atoning death of His only Son, Jesus Christ. Sin is serious, and its power to separate us from God is real. But there is hope in Jesus, the One who overcame sin on the cross. (Message by Charles Stanley.)

### September

#### **Overcoming Emotions that Destroy - Rage: Why We all Struggle with Anger, Part 1**

Would you like to be able to tame your temper, but you find yourself in a cycle of destructive reactions and explosive responses, and you just don't know how to stop? Join Chip Ingram as he explains some Biblical tools that will help you get a grip on anger.

#### **Getting to Know the Real You - Part 2**

This is Part 2 of Duane Sheriff's message from August.

### The True Gospel

Is there more than one gospel? How does God's gospel compare to the gospel that you have been taught? Do they match? Listen to Paul Washer as he shares the world's greatest need, the one and only gospel from God.

### When it's Spiritual Warfare - Part 1

Imagine living in a war zone. The air vibrates with the rumble of constant detonations, and rubble crunches underneath your every footstep. This is the reality of spiritual warfare. The good news is that the Bible directly addresses how to engage our enemy, Satan, so that we emerge victorious. In this message, learn how to identify and dismantle the strongholds of the devil. (Message by Charles Stanley.)

"I will go and die for them. I will pay the price for their sin, so that You can dwell with them forever." But, the law of the Father was that the humans had committed the crime, so the humans would have to pay the penalty.

They devised a plan. God would send the Son, by the Holy Spirit, and impregnate a human virgin. She would carry His seed and bear Him a Son. The Son of God would now also be the son of a human, which would qualify Him to be the sacrifice for the sins of humans. He would live His life on earth without sin, and carry out all the commandments of God without fault, and then give His life as a sacrifice, even unto death, to pay the penalty for the sins of all humanity.

"But since humans have free will, what if they still choose to listen to Satan and You suffer and die for nothing?" was the question. "Surely, at least some will re-

pent and love You more than Satan," said the Son. "Even if only one of them chooses You, I am willing to do it for You, Father."

The Father was very pleased with the Son for being willing to make a way for the humans that He loved so much to come to Him. He promised the Son that He would then raise Him back to life and bring Him back into heaven. He would make the Son a throne right next to His, by His right hand, to be the High Priest and advocate for all humans. The deal was signed and sealed, and the promise of a Savior was given to Adam and Eve and their offspring. Now there was a second chance!

God taught Adam and Eve that whoever believed this promise of a Savior would need to sacrifice an animal that had no blemish or defect to show that they believed His promise. From that time forward, everyone who chose to love God strove to obey Him, and made the sacri-

fices as He commanded, believing that the ultimate Sacrifice, the promised Savior, would one day pay for their disobedience and sins against God. This was in effect until God did send the Son as the Savior, like He promised. He lived His life on this earth without sin, and then gave His righteous life as a sacrifice to pay the price for the sins of humans.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did come and fulfill that promise—to release us from the bondage and slavery of Satan. He is the only Savior of mankind! Jesus said that He would give eternal life to whoever loves the Father and believes in Him as the Savior. This eternal life does not start when we die physically. It begins whenever we choose to believe in Jesus and surrender our life to Him. John 11:25-26 says: "*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and*

Continued on Next Page

## WANT TO STUDY GOD'S WORD?

# Plowman's



# Academy

## FREE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

For more details - see next page

*believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*

This is a mystery which seems like foolishness to those who don't believe. It can only be understood by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

*"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Unless we choose to open our mind to God and what He wants to tell us, we will never understand, and we will perish in our sins...even though the penalty has already been paid.

When we realize that we have been disobedient to God, and that there is no way that we can save our selves from the consequences of sin (eternal damnation), and hear how much God loves us and to what

great lengths He went to make a way for us to be united with Him, the Holy Spirit draws us to come closer. If we heed His beckoning and open our mind and heart to learn more, He will teach us many things. Whenever we choose to believe God, and put our faith in Jesus Christ, He will take our burden of sin and cast it away, because He has already paid the price for it.

When we repent from our rebellion of being disobedient to God and surrender our life to Jesus Christ, making Him the Lord of it, He puts His Holy Spirit in our heart and gives us eternal life. When we surrender our screwed-up life to Him and He exchanges it with His Holy life, it becomes possible for the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, because we now have the heart of Christ, which is pure.

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who*

*loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20).

He then seals it with the promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). When this earthly body dies, His Spirit will carry our spirit to the presence of the Father as one of His. *"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"* (2 Corinthians 1:22). That is what Jesus was talking about when He said, *"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3).

When we were born, it was this physical body of ours that was born. The second birth is a spiritual birth. *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is*

Continued on Next Page

## FREE Bible correspondence course !



It's easy! Choose ONE course, fill in the form below, mail it in and we will send you lesson at NO COST to you. Complete all the lessons in a course and get a Certificate of Completion!



**ABC's of Christian Growth:** Assurance, Bible, Church, Daily Walk, Enemy, Family, God, Holy Spirit, etc., all the way to Witnessing, and Zion! (24 lessons)



**Topical Study:** The Bible is the Word of God, How to Pray, Faith, Hatred, Doubt, Discouragement, Loneliness, Temptation, Adversity,



**Foundational Study:** Foundational topics like the New Birth, Forgiveness, Friends, Prayer, Brokenness, Wisdom, Lying, Salvation, Judgment, The Christian Home, Victory and more (3 lessons)



**Book of Books:** Consider the history, customs, geography, and measurements of Biblical times. See how the Old and New Testaments fit together and how God's Word applies to your life.



**Bible Basics:** What does the Bible say about forgiveness of sins and being born again? (1 lesson)



**Life's Struggles:** Find Biblical wisdom for overcoming Fear, Pride, Doubt, Anger, and Worry. (3 lessons)



**Verse-by-Verse Study:** Travel verse-by-verse through parts or all of the Biblical books of John, Ephesians, Colossians, I John, Titus, and Luke. (9 lessons)



**Church History:** Learn about the early church, persecution, Constantine, creeds and councils, popes and the Reformation, the Crusades, division, revival, and more. (13 lessons)

Cut here

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Course Title (choose one): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:  
**Plowman's Academy**  
 575 US Highway 250  
 Greenwich, OH 44837

*spirit*" (John 3:5-6).

If we are not born of the Holy Spirit, we are still in our sin, and will have to pay the penalty for it. *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his"* (Romans 8:9).

The only way we can be born of the Holy Spirit is if we don't have sin. The only way we don't have sin is if we believe, accept the sacrifice that Jesus paid for our sins, and surrender to Him as our Lord.

If you desire to know more about being born again, let's walk through this together.

- 1) Do you believe God? If you believe God, that means you believe everything that He has said in His word, including *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,"* (Romans 3:23), and *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).
- 2) Did you know that God loves you and went to that extent to make a way for you to be with Him?
- 3) Do you love God? 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3 says that if you love God, you will obey His commands. This is a pretty good indication as to whether you love Him or not.
- 4) Who is going to pay for your disobedience to God? You or Jesus?

If you choose to pay for it yourself, you will do so and spend eternity in hell with

Satan. However, if you want the price that Jesus paid for your disobedience to apply to your life, there are a few things that you need to understand. If you want His atonement for your sins, you will need to give up (or surrender) your life to Him in exchange for His righteousness. You cannot continue to live your life as you please and receive His righteous life (redemption). You have to be willing to give up your agenda and be willing to be obedient to His. *"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him"* (2 Timothy 2:11). He never said He would repair our life and make it better, but that He would transform our life by giving us a new life in Him, by His Holy Spirit.

He will only give the new life, eternal life, to those who confess their sins, are willing to repent from them (remember the free will), give up their life to Him, and honor Him as their Lord. *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20).

God's desire is that we choose to love Him. He desires to live with every one of us forever and ever. He knows that if we choose to love Him, we will also believe in the sacrifice of His Son for the penalty of our disobedience to Him, and we will take advantage of the second chance He have given to us.

I'm sure Satan has cried, "Foul!" and, "It's not fair!" I'm glad that liar and hater doesn't get to make the rules for me. I have a loving Father who created me and

saved me from my own folly by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. He gets to say what happens with me, because I have given myself to Him to be His slave! He loves me and calls me 'son,' and I love Him and call Him 'Daddy.' I am grateful for a second chance! If we choose to forfeit the beckoning of such great and unfathomable love yet again, our loving Creator has no choice but to honor our decision to spend eternity in hell with Satan, because He will not violate our free will that He gave to us.

Think about your choices today. Have you, like Eve, been caused to question God's Word? Have you been promised fulfillment in something other than in God Himself? If you have, you've been lied to, whether you realize it yet or not. This story gives only a glimpse of how much God loves you and what He was willing to do for you in hopes that you would choose Him over Satan and your own desires. If you have not done so yet, choose life today! Do not continue to choose death! Your choices matter!

Like Adam and Eve's choice affected their offspring, your choices will also not only affect you, but your descendants after you as well. *"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments"* (Exodus 20:5-6).

Our choices make a difference in this life, and in our life ever after.

-By Eli Lee

### Did you know?

- The tongue is made up of 8 different muscles.
- The tongue muscles are the only muscles in the human body that work independently of the skeleton.
- Your **tongue** has between 2,000 and 4,000 taste buds
- By the age of 60, most people lose half of their taste buds.

*"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips"* (Psalm 141:3).



## 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.**

# Current Resident

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

## The Empty Tomb

—By Pastor Moyer

As I once again contemplate the empty tomb, my mind is flooded with all of the things that were opened to us because of the cross and the resurrection. We are indeed a privileged world! As believers, we are a privileged people! Here are a few of the thoughts that crossed my mind. I trust they will be a blessing to you. Take time to think on each one.

1. God's love was opened to us! John 3:16. He just loves us! That's who He is!
2. Christ's heart was opened to us: the sick, the diseased, the dying, the women at the well, Zacchaeus, the thief on the cross, sinners, you and me!
3. Christ's heart was opened to God - in the garden He said, "Not my will, but Thine!" This is our example for life!
4. Christ's love was opened to us! The cross! He went to the cross for us, gave His life for us, took our place, and provided saving, sanctifying grace for us!
5. He gave us open access! The veil was torn from the top to the bottom! We now have freedom to talk to God! We are now a holy priesthood! We can now enter His presence - the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost!

6. There were open graves! The graves of the saints were opened! Can you imagine that happening today—Moses, Elijah, David, Isaiah, or Daniel, knocking on the door of your house?
7. There was the open tomb! He is alive! He is well! He is Living! There is victory! Oh death, where is thy sting?
8. There were open minds! Two disciples on the road to Emmaus said this, "*Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?*" Christ opened the Scriptures to them.
9. There were open doors! Door? What door?! Jesus just walked through it as He appeared in the upper room! He brought them joy, peace, and the promise of a Comforter.
10. Heaven was opened! UP!—Jesus ascended into heaven, He is at the right hand of the Father praying for you, and you, and you!
11. The disciples' hearts were opened! They obeyed, they prayed, and they tarried for the promise of the Comforter.
12. Heaven was opened again! DOWN! - The Holy Spirit came: strengthening,

purifying, transforming, protecting, keeping, guarding and leading! Oh, how thankful we should be!

13. The disciples' hearts were opened for us! They preached. They lived. They shared. They even died for Him, and in a sense, for us.
14. Let our hearts now be open — to His saving grace, to His sanctifying grace, for us to obey, to pray, and to become the temple of the Living God!
15. Let our hearts be open for others — to walk like Jesus, talk like Jesus, and share the Gospel of Jesus! Open to love others as He has loved us!
16. Heaven is open — UP, DOWN! For those who have died in Christ, they will be raised up! For those who know Him and are alive at His coming, we'll meet Him and His host in the air! Then Christ will set foot on this earth again—King of kings and Lord of lords—to rule for a thousand years!

Well, we could go on and on, but this is all Good News! It is all because of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! It is all because They love us! May not only Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, but each day of our lives, be lived by faith, and for His glory! He loves us!