ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We are now receiving weather-wise a portion of Winter, and sometime a taste of Spring! But we are happy that we can still worship and enjoy both! We are grateful to the one God who is over all and does all things perfectly.

There has again come sorrow to the Getwell family in the passing to her reward of Jacqueline Martin, Friday, February 9. She endeared herself to all the Getwell congregation, in that she had so many health problems and yet showed such a bright outlook and attended every service as she was able. To Bobby and her entire family we offer our sincere sympathy. A memorial service will be conducted at Getwell Church of Christ on Saturday, February 17, at 11:00 a.m.

Death reminds us that wealth, popularity, prestige, and entertainment are not the pinnacle of accomplishment in life for eternity! We come back to “all that truly matters,” and that is faithfulness to the Word of God and the Cause of Christ. We should then make this statement personal, and seek to prove ourselves lest we find that we have been proven reprobate, or failing when tested (II Cor. 13:5; Jn. 12:48). Both young and old need to face the fact that one day we will cease to live on the earth. Preparation for this time is very important, either by obeying the primary principles of the Gospel, or being returned by restoration to faithfulness.
Where in the Bible Will I Find
When Christians Are To Partake of the Lord’s Supper?

Gary Colley

Sadly, many people accept, without question, what their denominations teach rather than what the Bible teaches. This would not be so serious if it were not true that we shall all be judged by the Bible (John 12:48). This is true of many subjects, including baptism, women’s roles in the church, mechanical instruments of music, and even when we are to partake of the Lord’s Supper.

Some teach that we are to partake of the Lord’s Supper monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually, even though the Bible does not authorize any of these times. Some people teach that we can partake of the Lord’s Supper at a wedding on Thursday night, or at other special occasions on any and every day of the week: But, do not be deceived. The Bible authorizes none of these either (Col. 3:17; Gal. 1:8-9; II John 9-11).

What Does the Bible Teach?

Christians are taught in the Bible to partake of the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week, or every Sunday, and only on Sunday, or the first day of the week. Let us study and act to show ourselves approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15).

In Matthew 28:18, after His resurrection (Mark 16:9), Jesus said He had been given “all authority in heaven and in earth.” Before His ascension, He told His apostles to teach and baptize believers by His authority. He then commanded the apostles, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20). This they did after they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and had done “many wonders and signs” to convince their hearers their message was from heaven (Acts 2:1-4, 43).

The apostles taught those baptized believers what they were to practice in worship when the church was established on Pentecost—the first day of the week, or Sunday. They taught early Christians to continue “steadfastly … in breaking of bread” (Acts 2:41). These early Christians who were under the direction of inspired men, partook “steadfastly,” but when? Every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This will also be true of all who follow the authority of Christ today (I Cor. 11:1).
I Am Resolved

Billy R. Davis, Ph.D., USAF Ret.

I have spent a great deal of time in prayer and preaching this year about marriage and family as God designed in His holy and divine Word. Recently, I spent some time on the issue of the Value of Vows and our unfortunate tendency to glibly say one thing and do another. As a matter of fact, let me ask you the same question I posed to our congregation: What percentage of the time can I trust everything you say to be true? If we are faithful members of the body of Christ, there is only one correct answer to this query. But is this correct answer the truth that I live by on a daily basis? Can God depend upon me to follow through on my promises and commitment to Him? Have you and I emerged in this lying, self-centered, compromising, excuse-making world as men and women of God who have modeled Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5:33-37 to essentially let our “yes be yes,” and our “no, no”? Our integrity is a reflection of God’s character. Consequently, we must be diligent to say and portray the right message in our marriages, our places of employment, in social settings, as well as everyday encounters. We must aspire to be men and women who speak and live the truth.

There are countless numbers of people who were blessed to see the end of 2017 and the dawn of 2018 who will keep deceiving themselves about what they “plan to start doing” and vow to “stop doing” without giving serious consideration to their uttered words that Jehovah God will hear. And by the way, what have you resolved to do on behalf of Christ in 2018? It would do us all some good to remember the insightful words that Paul Shared in 2 Timothy 1:12-13 (NASB, emp. added):

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Merriam Webster’s online dictionary defines the verb form resolve as decide firmly on a course of action. Synonyms would be determine, decide, make up one’s mind, make a decision. Before I finalized by personal resolutions/commitments to the Lord, I reviewed these seminal lessons from the Holy Scriptures:

Jacob. He resolved to wrestle with the Angel of God until he received a blessing. He did not give up, even though he was alone, frightened, and uncertain about his future. His tenacity and determination paid great dividends for him and his family (Genesis 32:24-32).

Joseph. This godly man resolved to trust God through the challenges and vicissitudes of life. He resolved to love his brothers, regardless of their actions/behavior (Genesis 50:15-21).

Jonah. This self-willed, disobedient Prophet learned that God’s way is the best way. When he was in the belly of the great fish, he resolved to pay the vow he made to God (Jonah 2:1-9).

Jesus. The one and only Savior of the world resolved to honor His heavenly Father in all things, which ultimately led to His death, burial, and resurrection from the dead (John 6:36-40).

So, I am resolved to:

Love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and my neighbor as myself;

Love my wife as Christ loved the Church, serving her willingly and sacrificially;

Love the lost and constantly pursue them with passion, concern, and urgency;

Love my enemies and pray for them.

I pray that God will help me inculcate these actions so that they become who I am--not what I do. Let’s remember that my integrity, moreover our integrity, is a reflection of God’s character. May God give us the strength and spiritual intestinal fortitude to honor Him through our resolutions now and to the day of eternity.

Bon appétit!

THINK, January 2018