



Just A Minute with Scripture

Vessel of Treasures

Genesis 2:7 describes man as being made from dust, and *Isaiah 64:8* clarifies that we are made of clay: *“But now, Oh LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”* Sin hath made us imperfect, feeble vessels.

However, Paul shares an amazing insight. God’s radiant glory is deposited in us as we read and believe the Word. His brilliance shines through this tainted housing of dust to exhibit the life of Christ: *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (II Cor. 4:6)* The Lord is able to show His astonishing power and wisdom in and through our humble vessels: *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that **the excellency of the power** may be of God, and not of us.” (vs. 7)*

As we believe, God’s treasure is then put on display in us, which is Christ the Word. The sufferings faced in life’s laboratory mature believers, prompting us to be led by the Spirit to apply what we learn to live Christ (Scripture) in the details of life. Thus, we ought not cry unto God to remove challenges. Instead, we can realize that the difficulties actually give us opportunities to trust Him and reveal the Lord Jesus Christ’s glorious power: *“For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.” (II Cor. 4:11)*

Our flesh is naturally driven to focus on the things of this world, such as emotions/worries. Yet these are of diminishing significance (counted as loss or put to death) as we are persuaded by the Word in our inner man to focus on things above, spiritual things: *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” (Phi. 4:7-9)*

To Do: Our clay vessel can house treasure: *“the excellency of the power”* of God. What would this motivate you to do? Read, study, and meditate on sound doctrine so Christ can be manifest in you!

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How to be Just With God

You are a saint of the Most High God and justified, when you choose to believe. That is, you take God at His Word. *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Gal. 3:6)*

What is it that we are to believe? Christ shed His blood on the cross, which paid for all sin. Then, He resurrected, proving He accomplished the work the Father gave Him to do. *(Rom. 5:8)* It’s Finished!

Feel free to contact us if you have questions with any articles.



Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

Join us in our study of *Galatians* to gain insights and examine this epistle. Read and reread the selected Scripture to answer the questions below. Take time to think on these things.

Verses this Month: *Galatians 2:11-12*
¹¹*“But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. ¹²For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.”*

1. Why did Paul say he “withstood” Peter “to the face?” Explain.

2. Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, “blamed” Peter, an important Jewish Apostle. Did Paul have authority over Peter? Look at *verses 6-9* for clues.

3. Who was James and why was he so important to Peter? Do a word search to find other places where James, the Lord’s brother, is mentioned.

4. Why did Peter change his behavior in *verse 12*? How was it altered?

5. Why did Peter’s eating with the Gentiles cause fear when he saw the saints who came from James?

6. The men from James were “of the circumcision.” Was Paul “of the circumcision” or “uncircumcision?”

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” (II Corinthians 4:17)

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: What would God say if He was here with me?

God is in you, speaking personally to you as your teacher-counselor when you read, rightly dividing the Word. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth.” (II Tim. 2:15)*

Romans-Philemon are His words to each of us in the Body. When you read and think on how to apply it in life, the Spirit by His power and wisdom leads/speaks to you personally to help you in decisions. *Phil. 3:13-16* teaches a general process: 1) Push forward to grow and live godly, 2) Learn and apply Truth, forgetting the past, and 3) Press onward toward the mark, which is God’s will. (Cont.)

Dead, Yet Alive

Romans 6:3-10 teaches that believers have a new identity. We have been closely identified with Christ’s **death, burial, and resurrection**. **1)** The old man (sin nature) is dead, crucified with Christ. This is a secure, positional Truth. As we “reckon” or account this to be true, it also becomes a practical help. Sin no longer controls us. We’re “dead indeed to sin.” **2)** We’ve been “planted” (buried) to become a new creature. **3)** Now we can manifest resurrection life.

Set aside the flesh to walk out (live) what God instructs us to do as a living sacrifice. Christ’s new life will function within us as we yield. God’s will for the Body of Christ is what He teaches us in the Gospel of Grace in *Romans-Philemon*: *“For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.” (II Cor. 4:11)*

So, as the Spirit leads and teaches our spirit and soul, the body is quickened to live holy (*Rom. 8:11, II Cor. 7:1*) with acceptable fruit unto God. (*Rom. 12:1-2*) His desire is that we develop Christ’s qualities and mind, which are the fruit of the Spirit. Purpose to grow and be renewed. Though our mortal body is a vessel that is dead/tainted with sin, we can live resurrection life by the treasure in us.



Looking on the Unseen

As we negotiate the details of life, *II Corinthians 4:18* relays our Apostle's viewpoint: *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* This helps us effectually live unto God, through obstacles. *Verses 8-9* teach a new way to think and respond, with Christ's mind: *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."*

Focusing on the things on earth can be discouraging and make us feel *"distressed," "in despair," "forsaken," "cast down,"* and/or *"destroyed."* As this occurs, our effectiveness as His servant-ambassador will be diminished and Satan wins. Oh no, this is not what God designed for us! He promises to enable us, by His power and wisdom working in us, to be *"more than conquerors."* (*Rom. 8:37*) He desires us to be confident: *"What shall we say then, if God be for us, who can be against us?"* (*Rom. 8:32*) We are to stand fast and be fully persuaded, trusting God implicitly with every breath. *Philippians 4:13,19:* *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us....But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* This is glorious!

Questions & Answers

With Deborah (Cont. from p. 2)

Question 2: Why do so many young adults avoid going to Church?

There seem to be many reasons. One I have heard most often is that they are very troubled by the hypocrisy they see in the Church. Saints can function without grace or as quality control inspectors over young adults, while they themselves appear to live hypocritically. It teaches them God's way doesn't work: *"Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God...Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preaschest a man should not steal, doest thou steal?"* (*Rom. 2:17,21*)

Young and old alike need grace and patience to grow, i.e. knowing how to recognize when they are under the law and how to step out from under its control. (*Rom.7*) Maturity takes time, sometimes a lot of time. Spiritual babes need nurturing to mature and negotiate adult life, especially today. Sometimes, the youth hear doctrine preached 'at them' with insufficient personal encouragement or opportunities to discuss its practical application. The Scripture can be confusing and often doesn't seem relevant, though sound doctrine is very applicable. Interactive discussions, reasoning together to find answers, a vital component.

This is an exceedingly challenging world, visibly deteriorating and scary for many. People of all ages need godly brothers/sisters in Christ to reach out with patience and love to apply Truth in life challenges. Pastors do not have enough time to do it all. It is up to each of us! Sound teaching is progressively laid out in Paul's epistles. Begin in *Romans*, the foundational epistle. *Chapters 6-8* provide key guidelines for godly living. God designed us to be a mentor of others.

Grace Sets Us Free



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Good Works by Gene

We who rightly divide (2 Tim. 2:15) the Word of God should be “fully persuaded” (as Paul states many times throughout his epistles), that our salvation (that is, reconciliation with God) is by grace through faith alone (Rom. 3:24-28, 4:5-6; Eph. 2:8) WITHOUT THE LAW OR WORKS. Yet, many Christians get tripped up by Ephesians 2:10: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” So which is it: works or no works?

Actually, it’s really quite simple once you know about it. Salvation/reconciliation with God, comprises God’s gift of grace through faith alone; no law or works/good deeds are required, or even desired, of/from you, by Him. What’s more, there is absolutely NOTHING that you can say or do to attain your salvation. And, once your salvation is assured, it cannot, and it WILL NOT, be lost or rescinded, no matter what you ever say or do.

After our eternal salvation has been guaranteed, God never intended for us to sit around doing nothing (before taking us home to Heaven). He has great plans for us. His will is to “have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,” (1 Thess. 4:3), and “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thess. 5:18). Who do you think will be doing God’s will, as The Lord Jesus Christ is currently in Heaven? It will be The Church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27) – US! These GOOD WORKS aren’t accomplished by necessity, but arise from the overwhelming outpouring of God’s grace and love that have been tenderly lavished upon us.

Galatians 2:20: “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.”

About Us...

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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

