

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ MARCH 2016 ❖

Perish* the Thought

Whenever one of these thoughts enters our mind, it needs to be disposed of promptly.



“How could God allow. . .?”

Perish the thought that we can think on a level with God.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

Isaiah 55:8-9

“It sounds reasonable to me that . . .”

Perish the thought that reason can be the basis for determining what is acceptable to God. Reason is subjective, interpretive, and limited by personal knowledge and bias.

*Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?”
And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.”*

Jonah 4:9

“I know what it says, but . . .”

Perish the thought that what is written can be rebutted. If we know what the Bible says, that’s all that matters; attempting to rebut truth is vain.

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:24

“Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.”

John 17:17

*“If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free.”*

John 8:31-32

* Idiom: to wish that one not even think about something.

The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way you use them.

We preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

LOAVES AND FISHES

It is recorded in John 6, that Jesus took five barley loaves and two fish and fed five thousand people – with food left over. Later, the crowd came back looking for him, but he had gone to the other side of the lake. So they got into some small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Him, Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

Jesus admonished them, saying, “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.” Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” John 6:27-29

SPIRITUAL FOOD

Later in chapter 6 we read where Jesus fed them some “spiritual food” that included some hard sayings about believing in Him. “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.” (John 6:66) They eagerly ate the loaves and fishes and wanted more, but could not swallow the “spiritual food” Jesus offered.

FOOD FOUND UNAPPETIZING

Today, there are many who “believe in Jesus” and savor thoughts of a home in heaven. But when presented with the “hard sayings” of Jesus and His Word, they are turned off. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, repeatedly said, “You have heard ... but I say unto you.”

For instance: *But I say to you that everyone*

who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Matthew 5:32

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

While believing whatever they want to believe, they fail to realize that the power unto salvation is found only in the Word. They hold to the promise “going to heaven,” while they ignore, question, and gainsay Jesus and His Word. One religious group said they base their decisions of what is to be done to go to heaven on “what is the loving thing to do” rather than “what is the thing Jesus said to do.”



THE LESSON FOR US

Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

There could not be a gift of eternal life without the gift-giver, Jesus Christ. Let's be careful that while we focus on “going to heaven” that we overlook what He requires of us in this life. “Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10) has two key components: (1) Be faithful and (2) a crown of life. To receive the latter, one must fulfill the first.

Don't be turned off by His hard sayings!

So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” John 6:67-68

May that be our response, also!

Some of My Facebook Postings

APPLICATION

*Unless there is application,
studying the Bible is an
exercise devoid of any
spiritual value.*

*But are you willing to
recognize, you foolish
fellow, that faith without
works is useless?*

James 2:20

God makes a promise.

Faith believes it.

Hope anticipates it.

Patience quietly awaits it.

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:11-12 NASB



KNOWING AND DOING

Having full knowledge of the
“Rules for the Road”
doesn’t make one a law abiding driver.

Having full knowledge of the
“Good News”
doesn’t make one an obedient Christian.



The proof of being a good driver
is in the doing.

The proof of being an obedient Christian
is in the doing.

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and
does not do it, to him it is sin.

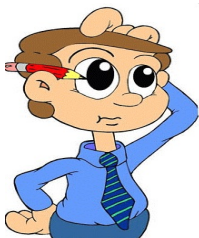
James 4:17

**It’s much easier to
demonstrate love
than to define it.**

*Little children, let us not love with
word or with tongue,
but in deed and truth.*

1 John 3:18





Ponder This

Faith Perfected

The book of James is filled with admonitions addressed to Christians to have a working faith. Near the end of the book three ways are mentioned whereby faith can be exercised, and thereby be perfected (made complete).

A GRATIFYING EXERCISE: Prayer and praise.

Is anyone among you suffering?

Let him pray.

Is anyone cheerful?

Let him sing praises.

James 5:13



A REWARDING EXERCISE: Helping an erring child of God.

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20



A HUMBLING EXERCISE: Acknowledging one's own sin.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

James 5:16



A Working Faith

You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

James 2:22



Expanding Your Bible Knowledge

Interesting Bible Word

OVERCOME

OVERCOME (*nikao*) to subdue (literally or figuratively): conquer, prevail, be victorious.



Overcome Evil With Good

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men... Do not be overcome by evil; overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17, 21

We Are Enslaved by What We Are Overcome

... for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

2 Peter 2:19

We Overcome the World by Faith

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:4

What Joy! What Comfort! What Blessings! When One Overcomes

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God."

Revelation 2:7

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.