



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ NOVEMBER 2016 ❖

'It Is Written ...'

In Matthew 4:1-10 we have the account of Jesus being tempted by the devil. The three temptations briefly summarized are as follows:

The **first temptation**: "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

The **second temptation**: "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down [from the pinnacle of the temple]; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you'; and 'on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

The **third temptation**: "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

While there are a number of lessons that can be learned from this exchange, here is one that is not usually considered: He didn't use his power to turn stones into bread. He didn't use the power of angels to bear Him up. He didn't accept the devils offer of a shortcut to power. Jesus' answer to each temptation was "It is written." He steadfastly relied on the Scriptures not His power.

'It Is Written!'

Here is a lesson for all Christians. Jesus used the power of the Scriptures in resisting temptation; and we have the same power at our disposal! If we are willing to apply the teachings of the scriptures when tempted, that is sufficient power to resist. We don't need supernatural power, we don't need the host of heaven to intervene for us.

Jesus has shown us by His example that the Word of God is powerful. Powerful enough to resist the devil. Powerful enough to protect us in times of trials. Powerful enough to save us.

Let us wield the sword of the Spirit (the word of God, Eph. 6:17) to combat Satan when we are tempted. Know the Scriptures. Know them well. Know how to use them.

Remember, that Jesus' goal was to do His Father's will, and our goal should be to do His will. Remember, there is power in **"It is written."**

❖ **How Far This Nation Has Drifted** ❖

Proclamation by Congress

Congress set November 28, 1782, as a day of thanksgiving on which Americans were "to testify their gratitude to God for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience to his laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness."

God Is So . . .

God is so loving . . .

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

His grace is so sufficient . . .

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us. Ephesians 1:7-8

His salvation is so great . . .

"... obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:9

His word is so powerful . . .

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

His desire for you is so earnest . . .

"... who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4

His concern is so personal . . .

"Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7

His cleansing is so complete . . .

But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

His invitation is so warm . . .

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Gk.: *dikaioisune*) is "the character or quality of being right or just"; it was formerly spelled "rightwiseness," which clearly expresses the meaning. It is used to denote an attribute of God.

– Vines Dictionary

God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit the man, but the man to fit the robe.

TRAINING MANUAL

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

MORE THAN EXTERNAL MATTERS

To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.

Proverbs 21:3

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

Matthew 23:23

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

1 John 3:7

ADMONITION

And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 6:13

YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW

Do not let the deeds of yesterday and plans for tomorrow occupy your thoughts so as to crowd out what needs to be done today.

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Not what I will do, nor what I have done, but what I am presently doing, is what counts.

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The past cannot be changed—
it is a permanent part of history.
The future cannot be made firm —
it is yet to be.
Only the present can be molded —
it is in the stage of development.

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Yesterday is nothing more than spent  
“todays.”

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Tomorrow is nothing more than
“prospective todays.”

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Don't let past mistakes become anchors that hold you back. Don't let thoughts of failure become a barrier that keeps you from doing something today.

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The Israelites looked back and paid the price. *“We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna.”* Numbers 11:5-6

James says: *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.”*

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James 4:13-15

## Roll Call of Ordinary Christians

Hebrews chapter 11 is often referred to as “The Role Call of the Old Testament Faithful” and rightly so. And there are other individuals that are often mentioned in the New Testament: the Apostles, Paul, Timothy, Titus, Mark, Luke, Barnabas. But many other Christians were busy doing what they could where they were. In Romans chapter 16, we are given the names of some. I prefer to call this the “*Roll Call of Ordinary Christians*” – true foot soldiers of the cross.

**Phoebe**, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea . . . **Prisca and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks . . . **Epaenetus**, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia . . . **Mary**, who has worked hard for you ... **Andronicus** and **Junias**, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me ... **Ampliatius**, my beloved in the Lord ... **Urbanus**, our fellow worker in Christ ... **Stachys** my beloved . . . **Apelles**, the approved in Christ . . . the **household of Aristobulus** ... **Herodion**, my kinsman . . . the **household of Narcissus**, who are in the Lord . . . **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**, workers in the Lord ... **Persis** the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord . . . **Rufus**, a choice man in the Lord, also **his mother** and mine . . . **Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas** and the brethren with them . . . **Philologus** and **Julia** . . . **Nereus** and **his sister** . . . **Olympas** . . . and all the saints who are with them.

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Today, many Christians are busy doing what they can where they are. We may never know them or hear what they have done, but their work makes a difference. They don't do it to be praised by men but by God. Thank God for the “foot soldiers” in each congregation – including this one.



Ponder This

Evolve, Evolution

To develop
or achieve
gradually.

I THINK IT IS

thought long enough evolves into

IT IS

(“I think” is lost in the process.)



I SAY IT IS TRUE

affirmed long enough evolves into

IT IS TRUE

(“I say” is forgotten in the process.)



I BELIEVE IT IS RIGHT

given enough acceptance evolves into

IT IS RIGHT

(“I believe” being deleted in the process.)



In religious circles this process is seen when

PERSONAL BELIEF

firmly embraced long enough becomes

ACCEPTED BELIEF

held steadfastly long enough becomes

CORRECT BELIEF



*For this reason God will send upon them a deluding
influence so that they will believe what is false, in
order that they all may be judged who did not
believe the truth, but took pleasure
in wickedness.*

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

“Have you heard . . .?”

RUMOR/GOSSIP STOPPERS

“Should I?”

“Why do you want to tell me?”

“Is this something that I should hear?”



*He who goes about as a talebearer reveals
secrets, but he who is trustworthy
conceals a matter.*

Proverbs 1:13

Compromise

A settlement of differences in which each
side makes concessions.

The Hunter and the Bear

Winter was coming on and a hunter went
out into the forest to shoot a bear out of
which he planned to make a warm coat. By
and by he saw a bear coming toward him and
raised his gun and took aim.

“Wait,” said the bear, “why do you want
to shoot me?”

“Because I am cold,” said the hunter.

“But I am hungry,” the bear replied, “so
maybe we can reach an agreement.”

In the end, the hunter was well
‘enveloped’ with the bear’s fur and the bear
had eaten his dinner.

– Source unknown

**We always lose out when we try to
compromise with sin. It will consume us
in the end.**

*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your
adversary, the devil, prowls around like a
roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

1 Peter 5:8

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