

Anchor Of The Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

August 2007

Living, Suffering & Dying

By Casey Head

A man named John Flavel once said, “The scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying.” How true are these words! Without the Bible, life becomes meaningless, suffering becomes insufferable, and death suddenly becomes frightening. I thank God that He gave us His word which is able to purify us and make us complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:22-25). What an amazing book! Can you imagine...

- **Living without the scriptures.** Can you imagine life without the precious Bible? We could not personally know the character of the majestic God of Heaven. Moral uprightness and individual excellence would be non-existent.
- **Suffering without the scriptures.** As you know, suffering is a part of living. Every person will suffer. But without the scriptures, what would be the point of enduring suffering and grief? Without the examples of suffering in the Bible- Joseph, Elijah, Jesus and the early Christians, what would keep us from giving into temptation, spiritual weariness, and grief? Without the Bible, life would be without purpose.
- **Dying without the scriptures.** To die without the scriptures would be to die without hope of eternal life. There would be no knowledge of heaven without the Bible. Life after death would be a mystery rather than an assurance. Can you imagine lying on your death bed with no knowledge of what awaited you?

Thankfully, God HAS given us His word, and nearly every household in America possesses multiple copies of the Bible. But I wonder how many of these Bibles are actually opened and studied. Yes, the Bible exists, but unless we actually read and study it, what is the point?

Do You Know Jesus?

“His Name and Authority”

By Andy Mitchell

Christ has authority over: all flesh (Jn. 17:2); angels, authorities and powers (1 Pet. 3:22; Col. 2:10, 15); every name that is named (Eph. 1:20-21); all things to the church (Eph. 1:22); and all things (Jn. 13:3; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:22).

We must respect the authority of Christ with godly fear, because he has the right to command what he will. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...” (Mat. 28:18).

How Authority Is Delegated

- All inherent authority belongs to God (Ac. 17:24).
- God gave all authority to Christ (Mt. 28:18; Heb. 1:1-4).
- The Holy Spirit was sent in Christ’s name to guide the apostles into all truth (Jn. 14:26; 16:12-15).
- Christ delegated authority to the apostles (Mt. 16:19).
- The apostles and other inspired men wrote the Bible, which is the Word of God (Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Cor. 14:37).

We Must Do All Things By His Authority. I’ve shown you how Christ’s authority is delegated. Hence, when we read what inspired men have written, we are reading what came through the Holy Spirit by Christ’s authority. *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

No man today has the authority to add to or take away from *“what is written”*. Since those words have been completed, let no man deceive you by his claim of receiving revelations from God today! (Gal. 1:6-9). The Bible is all we need (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). In everything we do, say, or teach, we should demand scriptural authority.

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Matthew 7:1 and John 7:24 do not conflict with one another, but compliment one another to show that there is more than one kind of judging- one that is condemned and another that is commanded. To illustrate “righteous judgment,” consider the following examples that are according to God’s word:

- Homosexuality is sinful and those who practice it will populate hell (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; Jude 7).
- Both fornicators and adulterers will face condemnation (Heb. 13:4).
- Gossipers are trouble-makers who, without repentance, will incur the wrath of God (Prov. 26:20; Mt. 12:36-37).
- Those who disregard the doctrine of Christ have no fellowship with God (2 Jn. 9).
- Jesus is our only Savior, and those who follow Muhammad, Confucius, or any other have no hope whatsoever (Jn. 14:6; Ac. 4:12).
- Those who repent and are baptized have their sins forgiven while others retain the burden of sin (Ac. 2:38, 22:16).

If an individual is teaching or practicing error and does not want to be corrected, then let them clearly say so, but let us not misapply the words of Jesus by saying, “You know the Bible says you’re not supposed to judge me.”

Dear Reader,

We sincerely hope that you are enjoying your FREE subscription to Anchor of the Soul. It is the purpose of this publication to further the cause of Christ by presenting simple, Bible-based articles and lessons. Hopefully, you know more about the word of God now than you did before Anchor of the Soul became a part of your monthly routine. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know. We are here to help you grow closer to God.

Thank you,
Casey Head

P.S. You can call me personally at (828) 467-1463.

-Daily Bible Reading Schedule- August 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	1 Chr. 23-24	Ps. 63-64
2	1 Chr. 25-26	Ps. 65-66
3	1 Chr. 27-28	Ps. 67-68
4	1 Chr. 29	Ps. 69-70
5	2 Chr. 1-2	Ps. 71-72
6	2 Chr. 3-4	Ps. 73-74
7	2 Chr. 5-6	Ps. 75-76
8	2 Chr. 7-8	Ps. 77-78
9	2 Chr. 9-10	Ps. 79-80
10	2 Chr. 11-12	Ps. 81-82
11	2 Chr. 13-14	Ps. 83-84
12	2 Chr. 15-16	Ps. 85-86
13	2 Chr. 17-18	Ps. 87-88
14	2 Chr. 19-20	Ps. 89-90
15	2 Chr. 21-22	Ps. 91-92
16	2 Chr. 23-24	Ps. 93-94
17	2 Chr. 25-26	Ps. 95-96
18	2 Chr. 27-28	Ps. 97-98
19	2 Chr. 29-30	Ps. 99-100
20	2 Chr. 31-32	Ps. 101-102
21	2 Chr. 33-34	Ps. 103-104
22	2 Chr. 35-36	Ps. 105-106
23	Ezra 1-2	Ps. 107-108
24	Ezra 3-4	Ps. 109-110
25	Ezra 5-6	Ps. 111-112
26	Ezra 7-8	Ps. 113-114
27	Ezra 9-10	Ps. 115-116
28	Neh. 1-2	Ps. 117-118
29	Neh. 3-4	Ps. 119:1-48
30	Neh. 5-6	Ps. 119:49-96
31	Neh. 7-8	Ps. 119:97-144

NOTE: For previous Bible reading schedules, please contact us and we will provide them to you free of charge.

“Anchor Of The Soul” is distributed monthly by the **Spruce Pine church of Christ**. We are a non-denominational church whose primary goal is to follow the New Testament pattern. Below, you will find our meeting times and the location of our building. Call us at (828)467-1463 if you have any questions, or visit us online at www.LookingToJesus.com.

Meeting Times

Sunday

Bible Class.....10:00 AM
 Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
 Evening Worship.....6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class.....7:00 PM

Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. If you turn onto 226 South from Hwy 19, drive past Don Smith Ford/Subaru to the top of the hill. McHone Road will be on your right. Once you turn onto McHone Road, we are the second driveway on the right. You will see the sign on the top of the hill.

If you can find any of the following doctrines in the Bible, please contact us and provide us with the book, chapter and verse where it is found. These are common denominational teachings which we cannot find in the scriptures...

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The sinner’s prayer | 5. Premillennialism |
| 2. Salvation by faith only | 6. Divorce for any reason |
| 3. Sprinkling or pouring for baptism | 7. Instrumental music in praise |
| 4. “Join the church of your choice” | 8. “Once saved, always saved” |

Let us open our Bibles and minds together in an effort to understand more fully the will of God. Perhaps we can help each other!

Judge Not or Judge Righteously?

By Byron Smith

Our Lord said, “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” (Mt 7:1) Yet He also said, “Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” (Jn. 7:24) Why would He say at one time not to judge others, only to command on another occasion what He termed “righteous judgment?” A careful examination of the context of these passages shows that Jesus was speaking of two forms of judging; one that is sinful and therefore forbidden, and another that is essential and must be done properly.

Often, the words of our Lord “judge not” are taken out of context and misapplied to support ideas that are false and detrimental to the cause of truth. Did Jesus mean that it is wrong to correct those who are either teaching or practicing religious error? When one is standing in defense of the truth and addresses religious controversy, are they doing

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wrong? The answer is no! In fact, these things are necessary as one endeavors to “contend earnestly for the faith.” (Jude 3) Jesus was seen in a series of religious controversies (Mt. 22:15-46). The book of Acts is filled with historic records of controversies that arose because the gospel was preached. Certainly, all should strive to maintain the proper Christian attitude (Eph. 4:15; 2

Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:4-6). But with that attitude, we must “put on the whole armor of God” and wield “the sword of the Spirit” with the intent of doing harm to the devil and his evil forces (Eph. 6:10-20).

What then is Jesus speaking of in Matthew 7:1? The context gives the answer. In verses 2-5, it is evident that Jesus is condemning a hypocritical, hypercritical and self-righteous spirit that sees the faults of others while overlooking one’s own faults. Many are eager to point out the faults of others, but will not give themselves an honest evaluation. Such individuals violate our Lord’s prohibition. They need to first remove the “beam” out of their own eye that they might “see clearly to cast out the mote out of” their brother’s eye. *(Cont. on next page...)*

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Destroys the user,
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Defies good judgment
Destroys the body,
Defeats God's plans,
Damns the soul,
"Whosoever is deceived
thereby is not wise"
(Proverbs 20:1)

-William S. Sharpe

"Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; hey that go to seek mixed wine"
(Proverbs 23:29-30)

Did Jesus Fail? (No. 2)

By Casey Head

In Acts 1:6, the apostles asked Jesus before He ascended into heaven, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" The problem that most first century Jews had, including the very disciples of Jesus, was that they expected Him to establish a physical kingdom. Why do you think they were so disappointed and discouraged when Jesus was arrested and crucified? They felt that Jesus had failed. Likewise, many religious people today say that Jesus failed because the Jews rejected Him and postponed the establishment of His physical kingdom. As an afterthought, He decided to establish the church instead.

Despite what people in the first century thought, and despite what people today think, the kingdom of Christ is *spiritual!* Jesus Himself said to Pilate in John 18:36, "My kingdom is NOT of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." In other words, the kingdom is spiritual, not physical!

I also know that the kingdom of Christ is spiritual and not physical because the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would reign as King, but not over a physical kingdom in Judah! Coniah was a Judean king, and as with all Judean kings, he was of the lineage of David. In Jeremiah 22:30, God spoke concerning this king, "For none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah." As seen here, no king would ever again reign from Judah over a physical kingdom. However, in Jeremiah 23:5-6, God said, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper...in His days Judah will be saved." Is there a contradiction between 22:30 and 23:5-6? No! A Davidic king would reign again, but His kingdom would not be based in Judah. It would be a spiritual kingdom, based in heaven. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, he told the Jews in verse 30 that Jesus was *raised* "to sit on His throne."

Those who ascribe to the false doctrine of premillennialism expect Jesus to one day establish a physical kingdom in the land of Israel that will last for 1,000 years. As we have shown, this concept is false. The kingdom is spiritual and Jesus is reigning now.

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Lightning Lesson

Jesus told Peter and the apostles in Matthew 16:18-19, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Catholics have concluded from this passage that Peter was the first pope, the rock upon which the church was built. But the rock was Peter's confession in verse sixteen, not Peter himself. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Paul confirms this point in 1 Corinthians 3:11 when he says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus." The church was not built upon Peter, a fallible man. It was built upon the kingship of Jesus!

Bible Trivia

The Kings of Israel:

1. Who was the first king of Israel?
2. How many kings reigned over the united kingdom of Israel?
3. Who was the first king of Israel in the divided kingdom?
4. Which king was married to wicked Jezebel?
5. Which king of Judah was made into a leper by God?
6. Which Israelite king was reigning when Israel was captured by Assyria and sent into captivity?
7. Which faithful king of Judah began to reign when he was just eight years old?

Challenge Question:

8. Was the world created by God in six literal days, or were these days in Genesis 1 representative of eons of time?

Bible Fact:

Between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament, there were about 400 years of silence. During this time, the Persian empire was conquered by the Grecians, which was in turn conquered by the Romans. The Roman empire was the dominant world power when Jesus was born.

Answers:

1. Saul (1 Sam. 11:15); 2. Three- Saul, David, Solomon; 3. Jeroboam (1 Kin. 12:20); 4. Ahab (1 Kin. 19:1); 5. Azariah (2 Kin. 15:1-5); 6. Hoshea (2 Kin. 17); 7. Josiah (2 Kin. 22:1)

Challenge Question ANSWER From July 2007:

Miracles existed to confirm the words of the apostles (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:1-4). At a time when the revelation of God was incomplete, miracles were a sign to non-believers that what was being taught by the apostles was from God, not man. Christians received the ability to perform miracles by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Ac. 8:14-17). Apostles no longer exist today, and so the ability to perform miracles cannot be passed on. Finally, miracles were not intended to last forever. As seen in 1 Corinthians 13:8-11, miraculous gifts would cease to exist when "that which is perfect is come." When the word was completed, or perfected, the purpose of miracles was fulfilled.