

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

July 2007

Complain Less, Pray More

By Jason Hardin

I had a great discussion last night with some of the young Christian guys in the area about spiritual integrity, using James 1 as our text. One of the practical challenges we issued to one another was **complain less, pray more**. “Do all things without complaining and disputing,” Paul says in Philippians 2:14. *Are you up for the challenge?*

- When you feel like complaining about your spouse, remember that **your** spouse didn't just get shipped over to Iraq.
- When you feel like complaining about your kids, remember that some people would give **anything** to hear a child of their own crying.
- When you feel like complaining about your car, remember that if you **have** a car, you are among the most well-off people on the planet.
- When you feel like complaining about your house, remember that you know **where** you're going to be sleeping tonight.
- When you feel like complaining about the members of your local church, remember that some Christians around the world can't **begin to imagine** what it would be like to spend time with several brothers and sisters at once.
- When you feel like complaining about the weather, remember that **some** people didn't live to see what kind of weather today would hold.
- When you feel like complaining about something really *serious* like traffic, remember that **some** people are dealing with stuff like bombs and bullets today.

See if you can go 24 HOURS without complaining about SOMETHING. If you're like me, you'll find it pretty challenging.

**-Daily Bible Reading Schedule-
June 2007**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	1 Kin. 9-10	Ps. 1-2
2	1 Kin. 11-12	Ps. 3-4
3	1 Kin. 13-14	Ps. 5-6
4	1 Kin. 15-16	Ps. 7-8
5	1 Kin. 17-18	Ps. 9-10
6	1 Kin. 19-20	Ps. 11-12
7	1 Kin. 21-22	Ps. 13-14
8	2 Kin. 1-2	Ps. 15-16
9	2 Kin. 3-4	Ps. 17-18
10	2 Kin. 5-6	Ps. 19-20
11	2 Kin. 7-8	Ps. 21-22
12	2 Kin. 9-10	Ps. 23-24
13	2 Kin. 11-12	Ps. 25-26
14	2 Kin. 13-14	Ps. 27-28
15	2 Kin. 15-16	Ps. 29-30
16	2 Kin. 17-18	Ps. 31-32
17	2 Kin. 19-20	Ps. 33-34
18	2 Kin. 21-22	Ps. 35-36
19	2 Kin. 23-24	Ps. 37-38
20	2 Kin. 25	Ps. 39-40
21	1 Chr. 1-2	Ps. 41-42
22	1 Chr. 3-4	Ps. 43-44
23	1 Chr. 5-6	Ps. 45-46
24	1 Chr. 7-8	Ps. 47-48
25	1 Chr. 9-10	Ps. 49-50
26	1 Chr. 11-12	Ps. 51-52
27	1 Chr. 13-14	Ps. 53-54
28	1 Chr. 15-16	Ps. 55-56
29	1 Chr. 17-18	Ps. 57-58
30	1 Chr. 19-20	Ps. 59-60
31	1 Chr. 21-22	Ps. 61-62

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

Is there anything that we can do for you?
Fill out the form below and mail it to:

**“Anchor Of The Soul”
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Check any of the following FREE Bible study offers that interest you.

1. Home Bible study _____
 -Choose a day: M T W Th F S
 -Choose a time: AM PM

2. Correspondence Course _____

3. Bible Tract/Material _____
 -Subject: _____

4. Audio Bible Study _____ Calvinism _____

5. Sermon Cds _____
 -Subject: _____

**In order for you to receive the material that you have requested, please provide a way for us to contact you.
Thanks!**

Name: _____
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Rights Or Relationships

By Edwin Crozier

I continue to struggle with the practical limits of Matthew 5:38-48. However, I do think I have finally figured something out about this text. An author of a parenting book offhandedly commented about dealing with our children. She pointed out that we should not spend so much time in defending our child's right to a toy his sister has taken as we should helping him see the importance of the relationship he is to have with her.

It hit me. That is exactly what Jesus was talking about in His Sermon. We stand up for our rights. We fight tooth and toenail when somebody has wronged us. But what is that doing to our relationship with them? Is it helping us bring them to Jesus?

When this hit me, I thought of an occurrence at Best Buy several years ago. I was standing in the customer service line. Ahead of me, a middle-aged couple complained. They complained about the line length. They complained about the number of people working at the counter. They complained about the number of people not working at the counter. When they finally got to the desk, they wanted to return an item. I don't remember all the issues, but there was something about a restocking fee because they didn't have the box even though the item didn't work. The man and wife went ballistic. The customer service rep explained the policy. The rep called the manager who explained the policy again. The man and wife pitched a fit. At one point, they even stopped looking at the manager and started looking at the people in line, indicating to me that they were no longer intent on persuading the manager but causing a scene and encouraging other customers to shop at Circuit City.

How many times have I been that couple, arguing vehemently for my rights and self-defense? A question popped in my head. Let's assume the couple were Christians and the manager happened to attend an assembly with them the next Sunday. What would happen when he looked up to see whose outstretched hand was greeting him and found the face of the man who had humiliated him just days earlier?

Before defending our rights, let's think about the relationships we want to maintain. Let's ask ourselves what we want this person to think when we invite them to Bible class or an assembly. Let's ask ourselves what we want them to think when they see us praying, reading our Bible or attending an assembly. What is more important? Getting to return the broken equipment without a restocking fee or having set an example that keeps the doors open to talk about Jesus with someone?

"It Is Written"

By Andy Mitchell

You cannot hardly claim to know Jesus and follow his example without recognizing the importance Jesus placed upon the scriptures. Let us not make appeals for what is right based on mere emotion, feelings, or tradition. But rather, as Jesus did, let us ask for "what is written." Notice the occasions Jesus either said "it is written" or "Have ye not read?"

"It is written"

- When tempted by Satan (Mt. 4:4,7,10; Lk. 4:4,8,10)
- When he taught about John (Mt. 11:10; Lk. 7:27)
- When saying that Elias had come (Mk. 9:13)
- In explaining how the Father draws men (Jn. 6:44,45)
- When bearing witness of himself (Jn. 8:17)
- When questioned of his Deity (Jn. 10:34)
- When questioned about eternal life (Lk. 10:26)
- When explaining the world's hatred toward him (Jn. 15:25)
- When cleansing the temple (Mt.21:13; Mk.11:17; Lk.19:46)
- When Identifying Judas as betrayer (Mt. 26:24; Mk. 14:21)
- When foretelling apostles' desertion (Mt.26:31;Mk.14:27)
- When rebuking the Pharisees for their traditions (Mk. 7:6)
- When prophesying of his death (Mk.9:12; Lk.18:31; 22:37)
- In explaining his resurrection after he rose (Lk. 24:44,46)
- When telling the parable of the vine dresser (Lk. 20:17)
- When prophesying of Jerusalem's destruction (Lk. 21:22)

"Have ye not read"

- When questioned on Sabbath (Mt.12:3,5; Mk.2:25; Lk.6:3)
- When questioned about divorce (Mt. 19:4)
- When children praised him in the temple (Mt. 21:16)
- When saying he was the cornerstone (Mt.21:42; Mk.12:10)
- When questioned of the resurrection (Mt.22:31;Mk.12:26)

Take Jesus' example and get back to the Bible! When issues arise that divide men, let us lay aside our preconceived ideas and just stick to "what is written" in God's word.

HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO
NCBIBLEQUESTIONS@YAHOO.COM.

What The Blood Of Jesus Accomplishes

By Byron Smith

Jesus' blood is truly "precious (1 Pet. 1:19). The word "precious" conveys the idea of possessing great value. It might appropriately be used to describe something that one cherishes with their whole being; a treasure worth an inestimable amount. While the Bible believer will acknowledge that Jesus' blood is of great value, it is doubtless that many fail to truly comprehend the extent of its value. Perhaps our comprehension could be enhanced by simply considering what Jesus' blood is said to accomplish.

- **Redemption-** As a former slave, we are released from the bondage of sin by Jesus' blood (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14). He gave "His life a ransom for many." (Mt. 20:28; c.f. 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- **Forgiveness-** pardon (Mt. 26:28; Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:22)
- **Justification-** Jesus' blood frees us from the guilt of sin; we are exonerated or acquitted (Rom. 5:9).
- **Cleansing-** The blemishes, spots and filthiness of sin are removed; decontamination occurs (1 Jn. 1:9).
- **Sanctification-** We become set apart from things profane and are dedicated to God, or holy (Heb. 10:10, 29; 13:12).
- **Reconciliation-** Though once enemies, we are made friends with God by the blood (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:20).
- **Washed-** Our soul is bathed, removing the dirt of sin (Rev. 1:5).
- **Purged-** All impurities are taken away; spiritual sanitation is accomplished (Heb. 9:14).
- **Access Provided-** Jesus' blood allows us to enter God's presence (Heb. 10:19).
- **Propitiation-** Jesus was the appeasing sacrifice that resulting in the covering of our sins (Rom. 3:25).
- **Purchased the church-** The saved belong to Jesus (Ac. 20:28).

These are the words chosen by the Spirit to describe the wonderful things accomplished by Jesus' blood. Some of these words are similar in meaning and overlap in application, but together they effectively chime, "Salvation is altogether possible for those who will avail themselves to the provisions God has made."

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Jesus shed His blood in His death (Jn. 19:34), and we are "baptized into His death." (Rom. 6:3) Why not be buried with the Lord to attain the benefits of that death?

"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. You will find below 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 disagree with any of the following statements, contact us so that we can sit down with open Bibles and open minds to seek the truth of God:

1. Man is capable of *choosing* to do good.
2. Miracles (such as tongues) are not performed today.
3. Baptism is a part of the plan of salvation.
4. The only lawful reason for divorce is adultery.
5. Christ is reigning over His kingdom NOW.

Call (828)467-1463 if you want to study any of these five issues.

Bible Trivia

The work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament:

1. At the baptism of Christ, the descent of the Holy Spirit was compared to what kind of creature?
2. In John 14, what did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles after He (Jesus) ascended to the Father?
3. According to the promise of Christ, what would happen to the apostles when the Holy Spirit came to them on Pentecost?
4. "Holy Spirit baptism" occurred twice in the New Testament of which we have record. Name those two occasions.
5. According to Paul, what is the sword of the Spirit?

True or False

6. The church's treasury can be used to support non-saints. T F
7. The place of worship is also called the "Sanctuary." T F

Challenge Question:

8. What was the purpose of miracles in the New Testament? How did Christians receive the ability to perform miracles? Were miracles intended to last forever?

Bible Fact:

The book of Esther, although inspired and extremely valuable, is the only book in the Bible that never mentions God.

Answers:

1. Dove (Mt. 3:16); 2. Teach them all things and bring them into remembrance of Jesus' teachings (Jn. 14:26); 3. They would be endued with power (Ac. 1:8); 4. Acts 2 and Acts 10; 5. The word of God (Eph. 6:17); 6. False (1 Cor. 16:1-2); 7. False (Ac. 17:24; 1 Cor. 6:19)

Challenge Question ANSWER From June 2007:

The book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible. It was written to the Christians of the first century who were enduring very intense persecution. John told these struggling Christians in 1:9, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation." For Christians today, it is certainly a book of hope, but it should not be read along with the newspaper. Its events have already come to pass!

Do You Want To Subscribe?

Perhaps you are reading this newsletter while sitting in the waiting room at the hospital, or maybe you found I while waiting to have your hair cut. If you would like to subscribe to "Anchor Of The Soul" for FREE, all you have to do is fill out the form below and mail this coupon to the following address...

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Would you like to sign up any friends or family members? If so, write down their names and addresses and send them to the address listed above. Again, this is absolutely FREE!

Lightning Lesson

The apostle Paul says in Romans 5:19, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Based on this verse, many conclude that all people are born sinners. This is why certain denominations baptize babies. But Paul is not saying that we inherit the sin of Adam or its consequences. After all, in verse 12 we find that death passed upon all men "*for that all have sinned.*" Why are we made sinners? Not because we inherit Adam's sin, but because we follow after his example. Also, if Adam's sin *automatically* transforms all of us into sinners, then we must also accept that Christ's righteousness *automatically* transforms all of us into saints (vv. 17). So what is Paul saying in this passage? Not that we are born sinners, but rather that Jesus Christ has made it possible for man to escape sin and be reconciled to God.

We WANT to help you!

Do you or anyone you know struggle in any of the following areas? Circle any that may apply.

Marital problems

Drugs or alcohol

Gambling

Troubled teen(s)

Depression

Contemplating suicide

Anger

Pornography

Other- _____

Understand that Jesus Christ is the only true answer to these problems.

Are you ready to take that first step? If so, then cut out this coupon and mail it to P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. Or call us at (828)467-1463.

Man's Head In Tiger's Mouth

As a part of a circus act, a man would place his head in a tiger's mouth! He advanced to the tiger and the tiger opened his mouth. While the crowd watched in breathless wonder and horror, the man thrust his head in the open mouth, paused a moment, then slowly withdrew his head from the place of danger and backed from the cage. As he shut the door, the tiger leaped against the bars with terrible force.

Such a foolhardy stunt was sure to attract much attention, and many prophesied that some day that man would pay for his foolishness. Their utterance was fulfilled. In a small town in northern Pennsylvania the man met his doom. While his head was in the tiger's mouth, those powerful jaws closed on him, and before several bullets ended the tiger's life, the man was a corpse.

This takes us in thought to two verses in the epistle of James: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

L.L. Wightman, in *Gospel Herald*

Did Jesus Fail?

By Casey Head

Paul says in Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law." It has always amazed me that Jesus willingly left the glory of heaven to live among sinful men. At just the right time in history, God chose to send Jesus to this world...but why? What was the nature of Jesus' mission, and did He complete that mission?

Many say that Jesus' mission was to establish a physical kingdom based in Jerusalem...but that He failed and was therefore crucified at Calvary and killed by the Jews, thereby postponing the establishment of His kingdom until the second coming. I strongly oppose this perverted doctrine. Jesus did not fail. He came for the purpose of providing salvation to the lost, and Calvary was a part of that plan. The fact is, He established His kingdom when He made that sacrifice, and He is King now. Let me explain.

Jesus told the people in Mark 9:1, "Verily I say unto you, that there be some that stand here, *which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power.*" In other words, Jesus promised His audience that many of them would witness the arrival of the kingdom. Did he lie to the people? I don't believe He did. Perhaps there are some 2,000 year old Jews walking around today? I doubt it. Is it that Jesus planned to establish His kingdom, but failed? This is what many people are saying today, but I am inclined to believe that God's plan was not thwarted by humans. So what conclusion must we reach? That he was telling them the truth! The kingdom was established in the first century! Not only does the promise of Christ in Mark 9:1 confirm that the kingdom was established in the first century, but many other passages prove that Christians at that time were in the kingdom!

Over the next several months, I want to continue this study of the establishment of the kingdom. As you will continue to see, Jesus did not fail. In fact, to say that He did is to mock the eternal purpose of God, His providence, and His power!

**YOU CAN HEAR CASEY HEAD AND ANDY MITCHELL
DISCUSS DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES CONTROVERSIAL
BIBLE DOCTRINES EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT
7:30 ON 1470 WTOE.**