

Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks

Words of Eternal Life

"And the scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:35)
 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Would you once again repeat this verse "And the scripture cannot be broken." In other words, it is not possible. There is not anything or any power to separate God's word. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35) Jesus here in his word has declared that the stars would fall from their sockets, this earth would vanish away before his word would be moved. Light would fail to shine, the oceans would disappear before his words are broken. The moon and sun would give way before his words are broken. No wonder Peter cried out, "Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

O my friend, if there ever has been a time in history it is now that we should pray out to God for words of eternal life. If ever there was a time for a people to cultivate proper speech and prayer, it is now for sure. As we look around all kinds of groups of religion are gathering together comparing their creed and doctrines. Slowly we're being led away from the noble inscription of the plans of our forefathers, those stirring words of the wise men of old.

Once we heard the words of the wise who said what they meant and meant what they said.

Jesus when he tested the disciples said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53) Jesus had given them directions concerning the bread of life. He declared that no man can come to me, except the father which hath sent me draw him. (John 6:44) My friend, as we read the life of Jesus we see that he has who he said he was. Peter himself declared, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (John 6:69) All that ever came to Jesus were tested. Jesus said unto him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury the dead." (Matthew 8:22) "I am that bread of life." (John 6:48)

Jesus was dealing with his own integrity "As the living father hath sent me, and I live by the father, he that eateth of this bread shall live forever." (John 6:58)

O thou who hast the words of eternal life, help us to speak the words of life. Jesus said what he meant and meant what he said. You can't come to him unless you are drawn by him. Jesus will not play with your emotions. He calls for integrity. "Let the dead bury the dead." We are in a spiritual warfare and we will face opposition. We are compelled by his love and must always remain faithful.

When Jesus said "Let the dead bury the dead," he was testing their discipleship their integrity, their character. Jesus knew that character is the foundation... the deep place upon which rests all that is noble, grand and sound... that which is elevated in the character of the man. "Let the dead bury the dead. Come and follow me."

"When they came to Jesus, they ask questions, saying why do we and the pharisees fast often, but thy disciples fast not?" (Matthew 9:14)

Jesus was not forced to speak. Like you and I, we are not forced to speak, but if you do you ought to mean what you say and say what you mean. What this world needed was a man of integrity. Jesus meant what he said, "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger, for I came down from heaven not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:32-47) The reason this world and some churches can't take Jesus is that he has integrity. He meant what he said, you can't come to him unless you are drawn by the spirit. (John 6:44, 65) When you ask Jesus a question, he won't skirt the issue. He will tell you what he means and say what he means.

Often when you ask a preacher a question, he or she will reply, "Well, no one is perfect." My friend, there is a big difference in perfection and being a liar, a fornicator, or committing adultery. I heard a preacher say recently that he didn't see anything wrong with second marriages. He would go down the road and say entirely a different meaning. You see, he could not say what he means, but you can assure yourselves in the comfort of God's word, "The scripture cannot be broken."

Dr. R.G. Lee wrote of Henry Drummond, a great scientist and lecturer, who was dying at age forty six of a mysterious disease.

He was weary of the Darwinian jungle of philosophy of evolution, tired of rattling dry bones and dead monkeys in an effort to discover the origin of life. Drummond told Sir William Dawson, a noted scientist and devoted Christian that "I am going back to the Bible to believe in it as I once did. I can no longer live in uncertainty."

My friend, silence is a privilege. No man can compel you to speak. You can refuse to write your thoughts or to utter your convictions. You are the master of your own lips. Your words are of your own choosing, therefore, when you speak, be honest, be truthful, and be sincere.

Say what you mean and mean what you say. Integrity is the deep peace upon which rest all that is noble, grand, sound and it elevates the character of man. Above all be followers of Christ. Most people are blind followers of the blind. They let others think for them, act for them or influence their actions. My friend, mental inertia has been the curse of all ages. Thought is the only process of finding ways and means for improvement. Cattle cannot think. They are easily stampeded. People do not think as a rule and are easily carried away on a wave of passion or excitement. Men who think in an emergency can often save many lives.

My friend, I have seen the ruin of the program of God simply because of blind followers of the blind and they refuse to think for themselves.

The cemeteries are filled with those who refused to think for themselves. Rather than to turn back to the Bible, they become followers of the blind, saying what they did not mean and did not mean what they said.

Next week: Intuitive Truth

Pediatric Pointers

by Dr. Joey Bell, Pembroke Pediatrics

One of the things we get concerned about as parents is how often our children have cold systems. Sometimes it seems like our young kids have colds continuously, especially through the winter time. The question often asked to me as a pediatrician is "my child having to many colds"? What we have to remember is that during infancy and in the preschool years, children average about 7 to 8 colds per year. When you consider that the average cold might last up to 7 days, this means as much as 60 days in a year could be spent with cold symptoms and that be normal.

The main reason kids get so many colds is that they are constantly being exposed to new viruses as young infants. There are at least 200 cold viruses in the environment. The younger the child, the fewer viruses he is being exposed to and the less protection his immune system has against it. Children who attend daycare nurseries, or preschool are directly exposed to more infections than children who don't. Infants kept in home based daycare rather than large daycare centers tend to have less complications during the first year of life with common colds.

Children with older siblings in school also have more indirect exposure to cold viruses. The older siblings catch and then bring them home. Colds are thus more common in large families. The rate of colds triples in the winter when people spend more time crowded together indoors breathing recirculated air. Smoking in the home increases a child's susceptibility to cold and coughs as well as ear infections, sinus infections, croup, wheezing, and asthma.

Some parents worry that a child who has frequent colds has some serious underlying disease. Children with immune system diseases do not get any more serious infections often, like pneumonia, meningitis, sinus infections, and skin infections.

Some parents worry that they have in some way neglected their child or done something wrong to cause frequent colds. On the contrary, having a lot of colds is an unavoidable part of growing up. Colds are the one infection we cannot prevent. From a medical standpoint colds are an educational experience for your child's immune system.

That is all on colds today. Next week we will talk about dealing with frequent colds. Take care. We will talk again next week.

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Search for Truth

by Elder Joseph Bullard

WITH A WHOLE HEART

I wholly followed the Lord my God. Joshua 14:8.

There is something about whole-hearted effort that breeds success. A contestant in the Olympic games may have superb skill, endurance, and timing, but without a 100-percent will to win he is likely to be left behind! In our text today, Caleb describes why he was loyal to God when ten other spies gave a discouraging report of the land of Canaan. This same spirit is necessary in our financial relationship toward God.

Is it appropriate for a preacher to talk about money? Should we sympathize with the occasional church member who loses his Christian experience because he feels the church always has its hand out for a contribution?

To be sure, no minister should make money his only theme. But a pastor would be foreshortening his ministry if he did not take opportunity to lead his flock to a proper relationship toward their money. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, on an average, every fifth verse deals with money. Of the twenty-nine recorded parables, sixteen—or more than half—refer to one's relationship toward wealth or possessions. This demonstrates Jesus' recognition of the importance of a Christian perspective on money.

As Christians we have dedicated our lives to God. We have told Him, "Lord, here is our heart; take all of it." But part of that heart is in our pocketbook, for the money we have there represents the part of us that went into the earning of it. If God doesn't own the pocketbook, too, we are mouthing empty phrases. It's not that He wants our money—He wants us.

A person may ask, "I want to be fair with God, but where do I draw the line? I try to pay a faithful tithe, and I give some offerings, but the church is always asking for more." The point is, we don't draw any line. All we have belongs to God. We simply ask Him how He wants us to use it. Whether we buy food or clothing or books, it should be under His direction.

God cannot accept tokenism. In His system there is no such thing as "the best of both worlds." We are free to choose Him or not, but we cannot serve both Him and mammon. We cannot be Christians only in part. Caleb and Joshua, in contrast to ten disheartened and disparaging reports, could say, "I wholly followed the Lord my God." May we be able to say the same.

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