

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #7

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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How Can We Trust the Scriptures? by John T. Polk II

QUESTION: How do we know we can trust the Scriptures?

REPLY: The Scriptures, themselves, prove their truthfulness and reliability when predictions made hundreds of years before, happen as accurately as they were originally written! And, this also shows how precisely the prophecy was worded, how exactly it had been copied and preserved, and how detailed were the events described! No other book in the history of mankind can so clearly show it came from God!

1. Paul argued from this "verbal inspiration" of the Bible regarding the "seed" promised to Abraham:

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ. (**Galatians 3:16**)

God's original promise to Abraham is recorded in **Genesis 21:12**: "in Isaac your seed shall be called;" also in **Genesis 22:18**: "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." There is no argument about the Old Testament Hebrew word for "seed" that can make that promise apply to the Israelites, Levites, or anyone before Jesus Christ.

1) There is no argument from Hebraists (pronounced "he-bray-ists") that could countermand the inspired Greek of the New Testament! No one better knows what the prophecy said or meant, than the original author, God, Himself!

2) There is no such thing as a "double fulfillment" of the promise to Abraham, allowing it to be "fulfilled" at some time prior to the coming of Jesus, for then Paul would be in error in giving exclusive fulfillment to "Christ." Either:

1. the promise and the fulfillment are both in error;
2. both are absolutely accurate or else; or
3. there is no case to be argued here.

Regarding (3), one part must be in error (either God did not state the promise accurately, or Paul did not state the fulfillment accurately) for "dual fulfillment" to be true, and the contention is born of a denial of the inspiration of the Word of God! **If both parts are in error (1)**, then all Scripture is not of God, and we are left to the mercy of the whims of merciless mankind for faith and morals. **If both parts are absolutely accurate (2)**, then no commentary, article, publication, or writer, past or present, is teaching truth who contends to the contrar! The inspired writer of **Galatians 3:16** makes an inspired interpretation of **Genesis 21:12; 22:18** and shows the inspired fulfillment as recorded in **Matthew - John** to be perfectly accurate to truth! God knew what He intended to say in the promise, and certainly knew when events had transpired that "filled full" (or "fulfilled") what He meant for men to believe.

2. Jesus had put His confidence in the copies of Old Testament Scriptures when He said:

"Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (**Luke 24:25-27**).

"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (**Luke 24:44-45**).

Let the Bible interpret the Bible! — JTP II

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ Please all, and you will please none. — Aesop

~ Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional.

~ It's so strange that autumn is so beautiful;
yet everything is dying.



LESSONS FROM THE TORNADO

by Bill Brandstatter

Last weekend was a devastating one weather wise for our area. Several tornados were reported. One meteorologist indicated the National Weather Service had issued 97 tornado warnings recently. That number is significant; but there are some things that were seen from these tornados that should benefit us.

It is easier and quicker to destroy than to build up. It was obvious that a lot of destruction came in a short amount of time. The emphasis for many now will be to build after the debris is cleared. The Bible uses a variety of words to mean "build up." Two of the most common are "edify" and "exhort." Paul wrote that we should "*edify one another*." (1 Th. 5:11) This applies in all areas of life. We should seek to edify our spouses and our children. We should constantly look at ways to build up each other, not tear down. In all things regarding buildings or life, it is easier to destroy rather than build; but we need to build each other up because eventually trouble will come.

A proper foundation is important. We have seen pictures on the news of foundations still intact, but the buildings are gone. The foundation will still stand long after the structure is blown away. When it comes to our spiritual lives, the foundation is also important. (1 Cor. 3:11) The church was built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20). It will stand forever (Dan. 2:44).

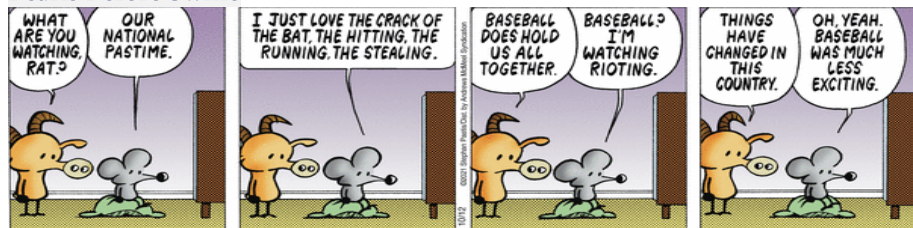
Cooperation is a must with everyone working toward a common goal. People help others to be safe. Political differences have been set aside and cooperation is evident. Cooperation helps to sustain us in weakness. (Ex. 17:12) Cooperation helps to provide courage for a conflict. (1 Sam. 14:7) The Bible says "*Two are better than one*" (Eccl. 4:9).

Life should matter more to us than anything else. Even after homes were destroyed, what matters most to the people is the lives that were saved. One man in Arkansas saved around 50 people by hollering for everyone to take cover in a bathroom in a truck stop. Destruction was all around and the truck stop destroyed, but because of what he said people were saved. Life matters to all of us. Jesus came to improve our lives (John 10:10). To Him, life matters. He wept when Lazarus died (John 11:35). He came to save people from their sins (Mt. 21; Luke 19:10. He promised life beyond the grave to those who believe in Him (John 11:25, 26).

Prayer is important. There is a time and a place for prayer. Most people recognize this during an emergency. People were praying for others because they knew God is powerful. They acknowledged the power of God. In the midst of storms, God is still in control. When the disciples were in the boat with Jesus, a great storm arose and the waves beat on the boat and the boat was filling up with water. Jesus was sleeping in the stern of the boat. He arose and rebuked the wind and said, "*Peace be still!*" (Mark 4:35-39) Jesus didn't stop the storm from coming; rather He showed His power during the storm. During our recent storm, God was where He has always been. He is in heaven willing and ready to help when needed. Luke records that men always ought to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). Paul indicated we should pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). Let us continue to pray and seek the help of God. He is a very present help in time of trouble (Psa. 46:1).

Let us thank God for all He does for us and realize we are just passing through this life. Life is short (James 4:14). God should be at the center of our lives (Prov. 3:5,6; Eccl. 12:13,14). Let us obey Him and live faithfully and we will receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

Pearls Before Swine



By David Sproule

Shameful, Irrational and Erroneous Efforts of False Teachers

When Elisha told Naaman, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean" (2 Kgs. 5:10), did Elisha really have to go and "wash in the Jordan seven times" in order for his flesh to be restored? Isn't that a silly question? The instructions are simple: "go and wash." The promised results are simple: "restored" and "clean." For anyone to come along and argue that Naaman could be "restored" and "clean" without washing in the Jordan would be shameful, irrational and erroneous!

And yet, that is exactly what folks today are doing with the simple instructions from God to be baptized in order to be saved from sins. Their efforts are shameful, irrational and erroneous! They do all sorts of contortions to try to explain away clear Bible teaching! Consider one example. In the comments on Acts 2:38 written by Stanley D. Toussaint in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (edited by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck)—which I do not recommend to you at all—note how blatantly the author discards the plain instruction given in the verse. Toussaint writes, "One [view of this passage] is that both repentance and baptism result in remission of sins. In this view, baptism is essential for salvation. The problem with this interpretation is that elsewhere in Scripture forgiveness of

sins is based on faith alone," and he cites several passages which he claims thus teach.

When the inspired preacher (i.e., Peter, not Toussaint) answered the multitude and said, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins," was it difficult to understand what Peter was making "essential for salvation"? It was NO more difficult to understand what Peter was making essential than it was for

Naaman to understand what Elisha was making essential! The requirement was to obey the clear instructions of God in order to obtain the promises of God! In Acts 2:38, the instructions include BOTH "repent" AND "be baptized" to be forgiven!

There is not a single verse anywhere in the Bible that teaches salvation by "faith alone"! In fact, James 2:14-26 teaches just the opposite of that false conclusion. True Biblical faith was and is always an obedient faith (cf. Heb. 11:1-40; 3:16-19; Rom. 1:5; 16:26; John 3:36; etc.). Thus, faith saves from sin when that faith obeys what God says to do (cf. Matt. 7:21-27; Heb. 5:9; Jas. 1:22-25).

How shameful, irrational and erroneous to claim, when commenting on Acts 2:38, that forgiveness is "based on faith alone," completely contradicting (and thus eliminating) God's requirement of both repentance and baptism in that very verse! Let us follow God's teaching and NOT man's!

And They Say There is No God!

by Clay Harrison

The moon at night and the sun by day,
Migrating birds when skies are gray...
Whispering breezes, soft summer rain,
Shimmering fields of ripe, golden grain...
Seasons that change as if on cue,
Acres of flowers of every hue...
Shrimp boats at twilight, an eagle on wing,
New budding trees whispering spring...
Valleys and mountains, rivers and streams,
Magnolia nights with shiny moonbeams...
December days whiter than fleece,
An unknown soldier resting in peace...
Puppies and kittens made to love,
Sunsets and rainbows high above...
Mother and child in rocking chair,
Dad's calloused hands folded in prayer...
And they say there is no God!



"Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing."

(Isaiah 40:26 NKJV)

