

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #41

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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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Settling Down by John T. Polk II

The constantly changing events in life are perplexing to anyone attempting to predict the future. Jesus warned: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (**Matthew 6:34**) We **learn** lessons from the past, **live** in the present, and must **trust God** for the future!

1. The Awesome Authority

Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, took credit for "this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty" (**Daniel 4:30**). God taught him there is a greater ruler, by taking Nebuchadnezzar off the throne for 7 years, and returning him to that throne. Nebuchadnezzar then wrote to everyone, "the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (**Daniel 4:32**). The United States of America now has a President who was taken down for 4 years, spared from an assassination attempt, and overwhelmingly re-elected, who now humbly says, "an assassin's bullet ripped through my ear, but I felt then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason, I was saved by God to make America great again." (Trump Inauguration Speech, January 20, 2025) Truly, God rules.

2. Who Can Predict?

Peter emphasized knowing what the prophets and Apostles of Christ had written (**2 Peter 3:1-2**) because some: question the Flood in Noah's day (**2 Peter 3:3-7**), doubt the Second Coming of Jesus (**2 Peter 3:8-13**), or twist the meaning in Paul's epistles (**2 Peter 3:14-16**). He said his readers "know *this* beforehand" (**2 Peter 3:17-18**), literally "have knowledge in advance." No one can have knowledge of the future without God's help! Solomon said: "Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth" (**Proverbs 27:1**). All uninspired predictions of the future are nothing but speculation or opinion, and are uncertain! No

doctor, politician, financial advisor, fortune teller, parent, preacher, educator, etc. can make accurate predictions of the future. Jesus said, "he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going" (**John 12:35**). Truly "you do not know what will happen tomorrow." (**James 4:14**)

3. Look Back, But Don't Re-live

Do you "live in the past?" Wise Solomon said: "Do not say, 'Why were the former days better than these?' For you do not inquire wisely concerning this" (**Ecclesiastes 7:10**). When we have only good memories about the past, we **(1)** may have faulty memories, and **(2)** probably haven't learned much. Life is a great teacher, but lessons come from both good and bad. "Let grace be shown to the wicked, Yet he will not learn righteousness" (**Isaiah 26:10**). It is important to know that "God requires an account of what is past" (**Ecclesiastes 3:15**). Christians have learned that "we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries" (**1 Peter 4:3**). Good people don't want to go back!

4. Lend Me Your Ears

Why pay attention to a fictional invitation: **William Shakespeare's** "Julius Caesar," Act 3, Scene 2, Mark Antony says: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears"; but neglect to hear **God's appeal**: "Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (**Psalms 78:1**); **OR** the appeal through **Solomon**: "My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding" (**Proverbs 5:1**); **OR** the appeal through **Jesus Christ**: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (**John 5:24**)? Passing an English Literature test won't get anyone into Heaven – possessing God's Word will! "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both" (**Proverbs 20:12**).
---jtp II

Free Publication: "Are We Led By The Spirit?"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/AreWeLedByTheSpirit.pdf>

Commands from Christ Are Not Optional

I recently read a Bible Q & A article written by a denominational preacher. In it he was asked, "Can you go to heaven if you 'trust' Jesus as your Lord and Savior but you are not yet baptized?" He began his answer by saying: "Yes. Baptism has nothing to do with salvation." Later in the answer he stated: "Baptism is an ordinance instituted by Christ until the 'end of the age' ...Clearly this command was not only for the apostles who heard it but for His followers throughout the entire age." Finally, he concluded with: "One is saved without, apart from and before baptism. Those who are saved should desire baptism as a public profession of faith, but please realize that it is not necessary for salvation. If a person believes in Jesus as Lord and is never baptized, they will still be saved."

I would like to analyze how this person answered this most sincere and important question about baptism and see if it really "holds water." I think it is very interesting that he admits that baptism is a command from Christ and then declares that it does not have to be followed for salvation. Imagine that – the command from Jesus Christ to be baptized is optional (or so he said)! Given this logic, I wonder what other commands from Christ would be optional? I guess all that are not in line with man's teachings!

All facetiousness aside, listen to what Jesus Himself said concerning what our attitude should be toward every command He gives:

- * John 14:15, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*
- * John 14:21, *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me."*
- * John 15:10, *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love"*
- * John 15:14, *"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."*

Note that there is no room in these verses for options, opinions, or omissions. That's because Jesus is the One with all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Whatever He has commanded, we'd better do. And Jesus commanded baptism as necessary for salvation (Mark 16:16) and declared it to be the process of how people become His disciples (Matt. 28:19). The apostles went about baptizing "in the name of" Jesus Christ (i.e. in the manner and for the purpose He authorized, see Acts 2:38; 10:48). They knew something we should never forget: If it's a command from Christ, it's not an option.

- Edd Sterchi

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ Reason avails nothing when passion has the mastery.
~ Publilius Syrus, 1st century BCE, from the Latin by
D. Lyman, 1856
- ~ A successful marriage requires falling in love many times,
always with the same person. ~ Mignon McLaughlin, *The
Second Neurotic's Notebook*, 1966, © ThomasPaine
McLaughlin
- ~ Most folks are as happy as they make their minds to be.
~ Abraham Lincoln

Bible Challenge To "Evolution"

https://johntpolkll.com/files/documents/GG_DoesTheBibleUpHoldEvolution.pdf

