

Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: Why do you keep quoting the Bible?

ANSWER: It is the final record of what God has said to mankind: "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." (Proverbs 30:5-6) God has identified "liars" by permanently defining and describing their lies, and also:

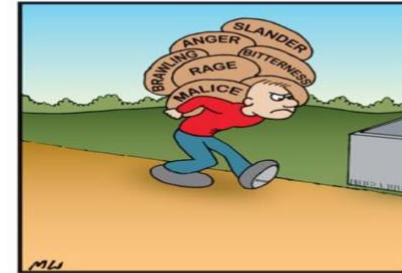
BECAUSE there is absolutely no promise in the Bible that there will be on-going revelations given from God to mankind, but that it is a complete and finished statement. Jesus said His words that He spoke "are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63); that His word spoken, if anyone rejects it, "will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48); that all nations must be taught "to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus never anticipated that there will be any other revelation that superseded the one He gave through His apostles, to whom Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26). Any claimant of Holy Spirit gifts, real or imagined, can only "acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 14:37). It is only by this written word of God all are challenged to: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Paul commanded Timothy to "Preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2). There never was any question as to which "word" Paul meant.

AND BECAUSE God speaks today through His written Word:

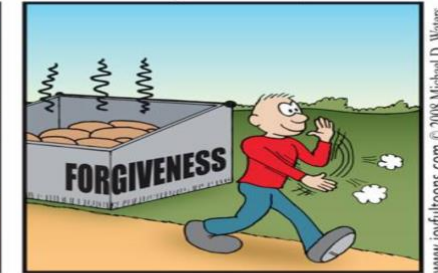
"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus has said: "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). But how does anyone know the words of Jesus? "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen" (John 21:25). The things in the New Testament "are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). We must believe everything the Bible says about Jesus – no more, and no less!

AND BECAUSE Facts and truth should always shape our opinions. "Do not be wise in your own opinion" (Romans 12:16). Relying upon what "we think" can be unreliable, to say the least. Many "think" they remember being saved before they were baptized, but Jesus' fact about who He saves is: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Shouldn't you re-think your testimony about your salvation before you say it again? ---jtpII

DUMPSTER



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



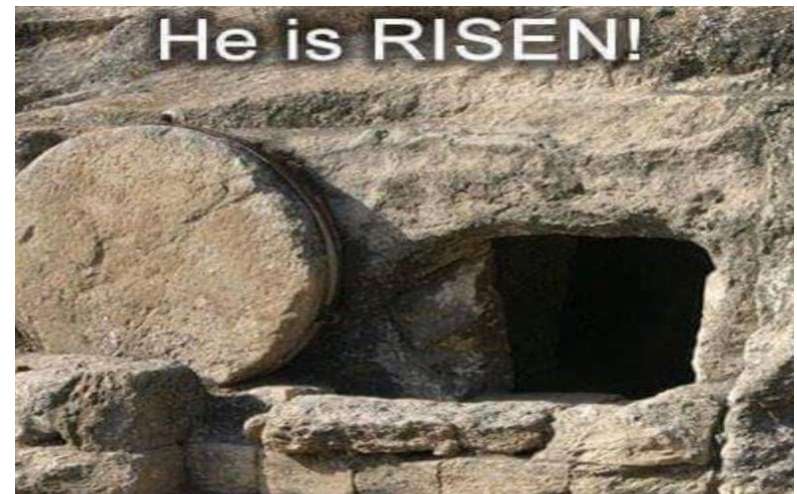
Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
— EPHESIANS 4:31-32 NIV

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~Time is

Too Slow for those who Wait,
Too Swift for those who Fear,
Too Long for those who Grieve,
Too Short for those who Rejoice;
But for those who Love,
Time is not.

~ Henry Van Dyke, "Katrina's Sun-Dial,"
Music and Other Poems, 1904



Unauthorized Jesus?

"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it! (**2 Corinthians 11:3-4**). The resurrected Jesus of the Bible said: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:15-16**) "Another Jesus," unauthorized by God and not preached by the Apostles in the Bible, says: "He who believes is saved, and then is baptized." Whom have you received? **-John T. Polk II**

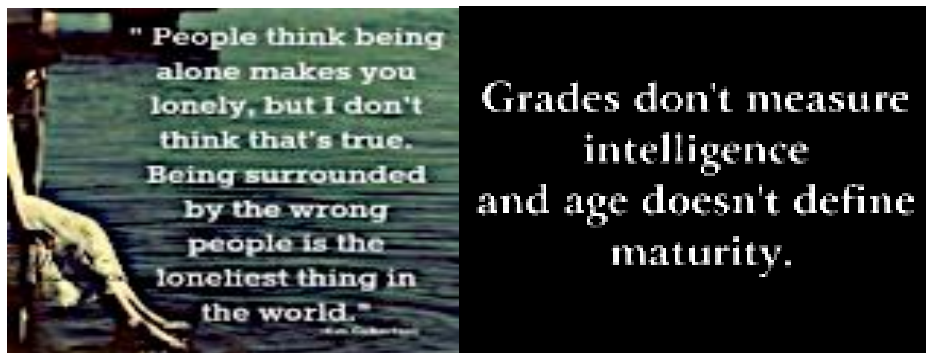
Peace from Pain

When days are rough, and times seem tough,
And we're 'neath much stress and strain;
Just trust the Lord, and heed His Word
And He will bring peace from the pain.

Peace from pain we will gain,
He has promised, and He will bring;
He will employ eternal joy
And peace from pain will spring.



- Edd Sterchi



Let Us PRAY!

In reading the 86th Psalm recently, I noticed some aspects of David's prayer that can help to make our prayers to God more complete. To aid us in remembering these concepts, I will make them into an acrostic using the word "PRAY". Notice from the Psalm how David utilized them.

Praise. David showed respect and gratitude to God for who He is.

- *"For You, O Lord, are good and ready to forgive and abundant in mercy"* (v.5)
- *"Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works"* (v.8)
- *"For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God"* (v.10)
- *"But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth"* (v.15)

Reflect. David remembered how God had helped him in the past.

- *"For You, Lord, are...abundant in mercy to all...who call upon You"* (v.5)
- *"For You will answer me"* (v.7)
- *"You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol"* (v.13)
- *"You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me"* (v.17)

Ask. David made supplication for God to help him in the present.

- *"Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me"* (v.1)
- *"Be merciful to me, O lord"* (v.3)
- *"Teach me Your way, O Lord"* (v.11)
- *"Give Your strength to Your servant"* (v.16)

Yearn. David poured out his emotions and desires for his life.

- *"For I am poor and needy"* (v.1)
- *"For I cry to You all day long"* (v.3)
- *"I will walk in Your truth"* (v.11)
- *"I will glorify Your name forever"* (v.12)

Indeed, let us **PRAY** like David prayed: Praising God, Reflecting upon how He has helped us in the past, Asking for His help in the here and now, and Yearning to make our lives better.

- Edd Sterchi