

# Scripture Standard

Volume 82-1  
March 2015

## Contents

- 1 **Editorial**  
Allan Ashurst
- 2 **The Blessings in God's Word.**  
Derek L. Daniell
- 4 **Get Fit and Keep Fit**  
James Neil
- 7 **EZER (helper)**  
Anonymous
- 7 **My Body which is Broken ...**  
Ken Lewis
- 9 **Respecter of Persons.**  
James Lim
- 11 **God's Hidden Wisdom**  
J. Lee Roberts
- 12 **Editorial continued**
- 13 **FAITH**  
A free book by Ian Davidson
- 14 **NEWS AND INFORMATION**
- 16 **NOTICES**

---

**Pleading for a total return to New Testament principles.**

---

---

Scripture Standard  
[www.ScriptureStandard.eu](http://www.ScriptureStandard.eu)

---

## New Testament Principles - 5

### "ELDER" "PASTOR AND TEACHER" "OVERSEER/BISHOP"

Continuing from the previous issue where it was shown that these three terms refer to different aspects of one role, not three separate roles.

"Elder" refers to their seniority, "Pastor and teacher" [Ephesians 4:11] to their combined work of shepherding their flock and being skilful teachers [1.Peter 5:1-4, 1Timothy 3:2] and Bishop to their supervisory work of overseeing their congregation.

In this article let us refer to them as "overseers."

Qualities they must possess are outlined in 1.Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

1.Timothy3:10 stipulates that they must first be seen to have these qualities, even before being appointed.

This direct translation makes this clear:

And these also must be proved - first, then they can serve, being faultless.

[και ουτοι δε δοκιμαζεσθωσαν πρωτον ειτα διακονειτωσαν ανεγκλητοι]

### **Overseers did not choose themselves.**

In 1.Timothy 1, the word "office" has been added in the AV. and gives the impression of officialdom.

Verse 1 would be better rendered:

This saying is sound: If someone is coveting overseeship he is yearning for a virtuous work.

A warning against power seekers. So verse 2 says: It is vital then that the overseer is faultless...

# The Blessings in God's Word

Derek L. Daniell - Tunbridge Wells

To the faithful child of God, no other book is greater than the book of all books the Bible! That is true because the Bible is the word of God; it is God's message to man. The faithful Christian is much like the Psalmist as he stated:

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalm. 119:97.

Or, as he refers to the righteous whose:

delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2.

If we started making a list of some of the blessings that come from reading and studying the Bible, the list would almost be endless. I can think of more right off the top of my head. But in this short article, let's mention a few of those wonderful blessings. that come to us by reading and studying the Bible.

## **PEACE.**

Nothing can take the place of the peace that comes from loving the Bible and reading it.

Great peace have those who love Your law: nothing causes them to stumble. Psalm. 119:165.

In the third chapter of Proverbs, wisdom is available for all and is acquired, for the most part, by means of reading and studying God's Word. Through wisdom comes the:

ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:17.

When we obey the Word in gospel obedience, we experience:

the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, *and* will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians. 4:7.

## **A LONGER LIFE.**

Think of all the time and money that is spent in efforts to find

ways to live longer. It is only natural for man to want to have a long, full life while here on earth. Well, notice the best way there is to enjoy a long life, generally speaking, on this earth:

My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Proverbs. 3:1-2.

There are so many benefits that come from obeying God's Word. In fact, young people are specifically told to:

'Honour your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. Ephesians. 6:2-3.

### **WARNINGS OF DANGER.**

Through the commandments given in the Bible:

Moreover by them Your servant is warned And in keeping them there is great reward. Psalm.19:11.

There are so many moral and physical dangers in this life that can cause us tremendous trouble. However, by reading and studying the Bible, we can find our way around most of those dangers and avoid them.

### **JOY.**

Meditating upon the Bible will provide joy in our hearts.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.  
Psalm. 19:8.

The prophet Jeremiah explained it in this manner:

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.  
Jeremiah 15:16.

### **WISDOM.**

Even the uneducated can become wise by studying the Bible regularly.

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. Psalm 19:7.

Through Bible study we can become wiser than our enemies, our teachers, even older people.

You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

Psalm 119:98-100.

We could go on and on listing other blessings that come from reading and studying the Bible. For example, there is: guidance (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:23); help in overcoming sin (Psalm 119:11; 17:4); comfort in times of sorrow (Psalm 119:50-52,92); the increasing of our faith. (Romans 10:17). Why not take the time daily to read and study God's Word? By so doing, you will become a blessed person! (Psalm 1:1-3).

---

## **Get Fit and Keep Fit**

James Neil - Skelmersdale

Have you ever seen or heard of an athlete who does not strive to reach the peak of physical fitness?

Training is a crucial part of any sports-persons life and the sportsman or woman cannot hope to contend successfully unless they are contending seriously. Most sports have many followers who play their favourite sport as amateurs and some reach a high standard of knowledge and ability but for any who wish to progress further there has to be commitment, desire, determination and sincerity. Of course, not everyone will reach the world class they may strive for.

If therefore physical prowess demands such absolute dedication and desire, how much more should we be putting into our spiritual fitness?

There are many books, magazines and other kinds of dietary

“Must haves” which can be bought to seek advice on our physical fitness and indeed we are faced with a myriad of books which claim to give us well grounded advice as to how we should develop our spiritual fitness but there is only one book which we can trust if we wish to become truly spiritually fit and that is of course - The Bible.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2Timothy 3:16

How then can we strengthen our spiritual fitness? Lets look for some advice and comparisons in our book

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 1.Timothy 6:12

I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

Here we see the encouragement to do battle in the strength of the Lord...to trust in his word and to gain our victories over sin and temptation by keeping the faith by determination on the occasions when we feel we can't go on, by not giving up....but that we dig our heels in ...just like the long distance runner that we with the apostle can say

I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith.

A stumbling point for many athletes is keeping to the rules.

It is not as easy as one would think, and sometimes it is very difficult to abide by a rule which we don't understand

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there be some that trouble you,

and would pervert the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6

All games and sports have rules and regulations sometimes when we are watching these things on television we can see that a referees job is not always easy and some players will take advantage of being on the “blind side “ of the referee to try and gain some unfair advantage but...a word of warning .... The one who watches over our spiritual performance ,has no ”Blind side” we can not manipulate his word and his decision is final.

In our case as those who are seeking to become spiritually fit 'The Rule Book.' is of the greatest importance. How can we know the truth if we have no means of substantiating it?

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

Of course it is no use knowing the rules and not endeavouring to live by them nor is it any use pretending to be living by them.

Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7

How serious then are we about our spiritual fitness ? Is there such a thing as being “Fit enough”? Of 'Getting Fit 'and 'Keeping Fit,' maybe the 'Keeping Fit' bit is the 'Hardest Bit.'

One great fact about the race we run is that we are not competing against each other but that we compete together insomuch as God wants us all to win, no second or third or last but all winners. Sadly the only other position is: lost.

This does not mean losing the cup, or shield, nor some championship title

Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the

Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12  
If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15

---

## **EZER (helper)**

Anonymous

Yahweh God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone, I do make for him a suitable **helper**" (EDITOR)

The Hebrew term "helper" (Hebrew: EZER), used in Genesis 2:18,20 to describe Eve's relationship to Adam touches on a number of often overlooked facts, for instance it is thought by some that if Eve is described as Adams helper, she must be inferior to Adam. But if we look at the context of this scripture and the word itself it points to something different. Not only does the scripture make clear that the man Adam is incomplete but also lacking something that is to be remedied by the woman. This Hebrew word, EZER, is not a pejorative one. It is sometimes used even of God's own role. That is, God is at times described as the great helper,

You have seen it; for You behold mischief and spite to requite it with your hand. The poor commits himself to You. You are the helper of the fatherless. Psalm 10:14.

However this in no way depicts God as being inferior to those He graciously helps. Unfortunately the English word, helper, implies one who is an assistant or servant, and this distorts what the Bible says about Eve's relationship with Adam,

---

## **"This is My Body Which is Broken for You"**

Ken Lewis - Merthyr Vale

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 1. Corinthians 11:24 AV.

This verse states that His body was broken yet the word "broken" is omitted from the ASV of the bible why?\* In my bible, it is in red denoting the words were said by the Lord.

If His body was not broken, how did the blood and water flow from His side when the soldiers pierced His side? Also how was He fastened to the cross without breaking into His body? What about the nails that pierced His hands and His feet and the crown of thorns on His head, The hymn writer says "See from His head His hands His feet sorrow and love flow freely down."

We can note here that when the soldier pierced His side, the spear must have gone into His body in an upward angle so that it did not hit any bones or break them, which also means that, dependant on the depth the spear went in, it could have struck either or both the aorta or the heart. Both contain much of the blood in a person and it is more likely this would be where the blood and water came from.

In medical terms a body is broken when the skin of a person is cut or punctured. The body comprised of muscles is attached to the skeleton by tendons. If you go into a butcher's shop and get a piece of meat with the bone in, you will see the tendons holding the meat to the bone.

John 19:33-37 tells of how the soldier came to break the legs of the two thieves but when they came to Jesus He was already dead so they pierced His side, these things were done that scripture should be fulfilled so that "A bone of Him shall not be broken."

The feast of the Passover was instituted in the twelfth chapter of Exodus. They were to take a lamb of the first year without blemish and kill it, roast it over a fire, and eat all of it. What was left at the end of the night was to be burnt, but the bone was not to be broken. verse 46.

Jesus is our Lamb of God, (John 1:29) and in verse 36 John



says "Behold The Lamb of God." His bones were not broken but His body was brutally broken so that our sins might be forgiven and we must remember this when we meet and remember Him each Lord's day.

## THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

---

### **NOTE:**

The word "broken" is omitted in Egyptian texts, but is present in Byzantine texts. Until recently modern text editors thought that the Siniatic text is the most reliable. That view is now changing, the Byzantine texts are to be preferred, preserved by copyists whose mother tongue was most likely Greek. [EDITOR]

---

## **Respecter of Persons**

James Lim - Lavender, Singapore

Why do some Christians like to use titles in church like Brother Dr. So-and-So? In my part of the world, some brethren are fond of using such titles especially if you are a medical doctor. It reminds me of one's spirit described in these verses when we show special honour to someone whom we think is better endowed:

For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:2.

Wern't the apostles Peter and John unlearned fishermen? So should we elevate one occupation, a medical doctor or academic professor, above the rest? Why not a teacher or taxi driver?

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John,

and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13.

Why is it bad to show favouritism?

For there is no partiality with God. Romans 2:11.

Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.

2.Chronicles 19:7.

How serious is this?

I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

1.Timothy 5:21.

The apostle Paul called upon “God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels” as witnesses to watch us “observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality”

What may have encouraged “respector of persons”? There are many reasons. One possible culprit in my part of the world is preachers/Christians trained in US influenced bible colleges. Once he graduates, a young preacher may recreate his “good old days” of college days in his congregation. He treats the church like his alma mater and feeds his flock with a diet of visiting preachers, each time introducing them as Doctor or Professor this and that. Naturally in a bible school, an academic institution, there are Doctor this and Professor that. He forgets what Dorothy told Toto in the story Wizard of Oz, “we are not in Kansas anymore”.

A church is not an academic institution! We are to make disciples, not scholars, of Christ.

With time, such people with man-made accolades are highly regarded. With the seed planted, and every seed produces its

own kind, we might produce a flock of respecters of persons. So what if you are respected as Doctor this or Professor that in God's house?

the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Acts 19:15.

---

## **God's Hidden Wisdom**

J. Lee Roberts. Lubbock, Texas.

Humility is needed to understand what God had hidden in the Old Testament, but now reveals to us through Christ.

God has used parables and types of symbolic language (apocalyptic) to teach us to think in spiritual terms. He often does not answer our questions immediately because He needs to prepare our hearts and minds first before He reveals His spiritual response.

God has chosen to reveal the meaning of mysteries hidden in the Old Testament writings only to those who have learned humility and childlike trust and faith in His Words. Those who are wise in their own eyes will never understand the Lord's revelations. Prayerfully read the following scriptures:

Luke 10:21, 22; 1. Corinthians 1:18-24, 30; 2:6-16, 2. Corinthians 3:12-16; Ephesians 1:9,10; 3:1-6,9-11, Colossians 1:25 - 2: 2; Romans 16:25-27.

The mystery hidden for long ages is the message that Christ would unite Jew and gentile into ONE new temple, not built with human hands, where God will dwell with us. Ephesians 2:11-22, Colossians 1:24-2: 2.

The old Temple with animal sacrifices and religious practices, were only shadow or symbol of all that God would make spiritually real in the new body of Christ, the church and kingdom, with a Royal Priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices.

The old has passed away, the new has come. Jesus has been crowned King and now reigns from Heaven over those born again. Hebrews 10:1-10, Acts 2:29-36, Colossians 1:13.

---

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

### **Church leaders did not select church leaders.**

In Acts chapter six, it is recorded that men were needed to carry out vitally responsible roles. Even so the apostles themselves did not do the choosing. The apostles stated the qualities required and instructed the brethren in the church to seek out and choose suitable men.

brethren, seek out from amongst yourselves, seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. Acts 6:3

These are vitally important New Testament principles.

Incidentally: the word "ordain", in the King James version of Titus 1:5, does not mean "choose." It means "appoint". In Acts 6:3 the KJV has "appoint" for the same Greek word.\* Timothy was to appoint those whom the church chose. \*[καταστημαι].

**Must be faultless** [δει ... ανεπιληπτον ειναι] 1.Timothy 3:2ff.:

After the words "must be faultless" there follows a list of "musts" the overseer must have which are mostly self explanatory.

However, here are a few inferences that might be overlooked:

- He must ... be married and have one wife! (v.2, & Titus 1:6). If there is another wife he does not qualify (Romans 7:3). His wife must be faithful [v.11]. Imagine trying to be given to hospitality [v.2, Titus 1:8] if his wife does not co-operate. Most of the burden of hospitality and most of the task of training the children falls on the wife.
- He must ... be a skilful teacher [v.2] who is well versed in the scriptures. [v.9, & Titus 1:9ff.]

- He must ... have faithful children. If the children were unruly that could scupper trying to be hospitable. More importantly, "ruling his own house well" is evidence that he should be able to take care of the house of God. [vv.4 & 5. Titus 1:6 & 8].
- He must ... not be a novice [v.6]. The word "elder" necessarily implies seniority, maturity. Note the warning given in that verse.
- He must ... be recognised as a good living person by the non-Christian community [v.7].

## **"DEACONS"**

Deacons and their families must have most of the qualities required of overseers and their families but they are not required to have to be skilful teachers. [1.Timothy 3:8-12].

"deacon" is anglicised form of the Greek word 'diakonos', which means "a servant." Here it is used of men selected to serve the church in vital work not requiring the skill of teaching. [Compare Acts 31-4].

Those who **serve** well gain for themselves a good grade and great confidence in faith which is in Christ Jesus. 1.Timothy 3:13. [emphasis mine].

I understand this verse to apply to overseers as well as deacons.

---

## **FAITH!**

This is a new book by Ian Davidson of the Motherwell congregation, financed by the church of Christ which meets in Wallacestone and endorsed by churches in the Slamannan district. It was written with unbelievers in mind.

Free copies of this book are available from the author.

His e-mail address is: [iansneddondavidson@gmail.com](mailto:iansneddondavidson@gmail.com).

Mailing costs to anywhere in the world are also covered.

Obtain a copy and see what you think!

---

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **MAUCLINE, AYRSHIRE.**

We chronicle the death of our beloved sister Rita McGinn, who passed away on the 20th November, 2014 at her home in Mauchline. She was the wife of our late brother Harry McGinn, who was also a faithful Christian unto death. Rita served the church in Dalmellington and then New Cumnock.

She had become an isolated member in Mauchline, but, through the facilities of Skype, shared most Lord's days in the communion service from Aberdeen. We are most grateful to the Aberdeen congregation for thinking of Rita in this way. We extend to Rita's sons - Tommy, Jim, Drew and David and her nine grandchildren - our sincerest condolences. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother. Her funeral service was held at the Bridgend Gospel Hall in New Cumnock (kindly granted) and the interment took place at the local cemetery. Both services were conducted by the writer. Rita was a loving and faithful disciple to the end. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten by all who knew her.

Ian S. Davidson

---

### **HADDINGTON, EAST LOTHIAN.**

We chronicle the death of brother James R. Gardiner, whose funeral took place at the West Church, Haddington (kindly granted) on the 6th. of January, 2015. The interment thereafter was at the cemetery in Pencaitland, East Lothian. The author conducted both services with the assistance of brother Niall Scobbie of Dennyloanhead congregation.

Brother James was especially well-known among the saints of the Slamannan District churches of Christ. He was baptised in Newtongrange, but had a long-term association with the congregation that meets in Haddington. In fact, James was

heavily involved in the renovation of their present meeting house, which today is somewhat of a monument to his skills and abilities as a designer and builder. (James would immediately acknowledge the help received from others in this project, including brother James Moncrieff of the congregation.)

James' first wife was Betty Nisbet, sister of brothers Jack and Joe and daughter of the beloved Tom and Annie Nisbet. James and Betty had three children – Russell, Anne and Clyde. The family settled in Haddington. James studied hard to become a qualified chartered surveyor and was employed for many years at the City Assessor's Office in High Street, Edinburgh. The early deaths of Clyde and Betty were severe blows to him. However, his spirits were lifted when he married sister Hazel Davidson of Motherwell congregation.

They settled in Motherwell, but James still travelled back to Haddington each Sunday when he was fit and able. He suffered a debilitating stroke over four years ago, which sadly restricted him in many ways. Hazel's wonderful love and care, together with the comfort and support from family and friends, saw him through many a difficult day.

James' association with the "Scripture Standard" was long and distinguished. He conducted "Question Box" from 1967 to 1974 and then became editor of the magazine until 2002. His "Question Box" answers and his subsequent editorials reveal a sharp mind and one steeped in the Scriptures. His skills, especially in written debate, were formidable.

The church owes a great debt to brother James, and it goes without saying that he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He taught the life he lived and lived the life he taught. He was an example to us all. He died in hope and we hope to meet him again in that "land that is fairer than day".

Ian S. Davidson, Motherwell

---

## NOTICES

**STRETFORD, Manchester.**

**Saturday Gospel Meetings. 2015**

**7.00 pm** The Green Hut

538 Kings Road, M32 8JT

**March 28th.**

Allan Ashurst

**September 19th.**

**October 17th.**

**Contacts:**

Allan Ashurst. Tel. 0161-865 4242

John Purcell. Tel. 0161-439 1758

**Map:**

[www.eusebos.eu/d4web4s/longford.htm](http://www.eusebos.eu/d4web4s/longford.htm)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS 2015**

Reading Cards are available

from John Kneller

2/2 High Waterfield,

Fairmilehead, Edinburgh

EH10 6HQ

Tel.

E-mail: [johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com](mailto:johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com)

**GHANA APPEAL**

Please send donations to:

Mrs. Christine Wood

11 Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RE

E-mail: [ctkwood@hotmail.com](mailto:ctkwood@hotmail.com)

**EASTWOOD, Nottinghamshire.**

Seymour Road, NG16 3ND

**Saturdays. 2015**

**6.00 pm** Refreshments

**7.00 pm** Message

**May 9th.**

**August 8th.**

**November 14th.**

**Contact:**

Adrian Limb Tel. 01773-761 670

[cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)

There are many Bible based topics on  
[www.simplychristians.eu](http://www.simplychristians.eu) web site.

**BIBLE QUESTIONS**

Frank Worgan, 11 Stanier Road,

CORBYS, NN17 1XP

Tel. 01536-206 848

E-mail: [frankworgan@outlook.com](mailto:frankworgan@outlook.com)

Brother Frank Worgan is happy to receive Bible questions requiring urgent answers by telephone, letter or e-mail.

### THE SCRIPTURE STANDARD

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - UNITED KINGDOM . . . . . £3.50

OVERSEAS RATES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER

**TREASURER: Miss R.M. Payne, 1 Kenilworth Avenue, Reading, RG30 3DL**

Tel: 0118-959 1176. E-mail: [rosabelle.payne@btinternet.com](mailto:rosabelle.payne@btinternet.com)

To whom change of address should be sent.

**EDITOR: Allan Ashurst, 60 Kenwood Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 8PT**

E-mail: [AshurstA@aol.com](mailto:AshurstA@aol.com)

**DOWNLOADABLE BACKNUMBERS:** [www.ScriptureStandard.eu](http://www.ScriptureStandard.eu)

The *Scripture Standard* is printed for the publishers by [agapeonline.co.uk](http://agapeonline.co.uk)