

Scripture Standard

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Pleading for a total return to New Testament principles.

contend earnestly for the faith
Jude 1:3

Scripture Standard
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New Testament Principles - 8

THE ONE LOAF MUST BE BROKEN BEFORE THE SAINTS FEAST UPON IT, WHICH HAS OBTAINED FOR THIS INSTITUTION THE NAME OF "BREAKING THE LOAF."

Alexander Campbell

(The Christian System, part of Breaking The Loaf Proposition V)

.... We have said that the loaf must be broken before the saints partake of it. Jesus took a loaf from the paschal table and broke it before he gave it to his disciples. They received a broken loaf, emblematic of his body once whole, but by his own consent broken for his disciples. In eating it we then remember that the Lord's body was by his own consent broken or wounded for us. Therefore, he that gives thanks for the loaf should break it, not as the representative of the Lord, but after his example; and after the disciples have partaken of this loaf, handing it to one another, or while they are partaking of it, the disciple who brake it partakes with them of the broken loaf - thus they all have communion with the Lord and with one another in eating the broken loaf. And thus they as priests feast upon his sacrifice. For the priests ate of the sacrifices and were thus partakers of the altar. The proof of all that is found in the institution given in Matthew xxvi. Mark xiv. Luke xxii. and 1.Cor. xi. In each of which his breaking of the loaf, *after* giving thanks, and *before* his disciples partook of it, is distinctly stated.

It is not, therefore, strange, that the literal designation of this institution should be, what Luke has given it in his Acts of Apostles thirty years after its institution. The first time he notices it is Acts ii. 42. when he calls it emphatically *te klasei tou artou*, the breaking of the loaf, a name at the time of his writing, A.D. 64, universally understood. For, says he, in recording the piety and devotion of the first converts, "they continued steadfast in the teaching of the Apostles, in the fellowship, in *the breaking of the loaf*, in the prayers - praising God." It is true, there is more than breaking a loaf in this institution. But, in accordance with general, if not universal usage, either that which is first or most prominent in laws, institutions, and usages, gives a name to them. Thus we have our *Habeas Corpus*, our *Fieri Facias*, our *Nisi Prius*, our *Capias*, our *Venditioni Exponas*, names given from the first words of the law.

But to break a loaf, or *to break bread*, was a phrase common amongst the Jews to denote ordinary eating for refreshment. For example, Acts ii. 46. "Daily, with one accord, they continued in the temple and in breaking bread from house to house. They ate their *food* with gladness and simplicity of heart." Also, after Paul had restored Eutychus at Troas, we are informed he brake a loaf and ate. Here it must refer to himself, not only because it is used *indefinitely*, but because he that eats is the same number with him that breaks a loaf. But when an established usage is referred to, the article or some definite term ascertains what is alluded to. Thus, Acts ii. 42. it is "*the breaking of the loaf*." And Acts xx. 7. it is "They assembled for *the breaking of the loaf*." This loaf is explained by Paul, 1.Cor. x. 16. "*The loaf which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ*."

Extracted from "The Christian System" 1839, 2nd.edition,
<http://eusebos.eu/eusebos/campbell/loaf.htm#part3>

I Will

Derek L Daniell, Tunbridge Wells.

If I counted correctly, the phrase "I will" is used twenty-three times in Psalm 119. Let us give some consideration to some of these passages in this Psalm. By doing so, we can grow and develop in our service to God.

The Will of Obedience

I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly.

Psalm 119:8

We must realize that keeping God's statutes includes all of His commands. There is no place in this passage, or in any other passage throughout the Word of God, which allows us to be selective in our obedience. Consider, in what circumstances did the Psalmist plan to be obedient? The answer is quite simple, under every circumstance, at all times. Notice what the Psalmist said at the very beginning of Psalm 119:

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart. v.2

The Apostle Paul commended the Romans when he told them:

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. Romans 6:17

Thus, obedience to God's will is so important, that we cannot have a relationship with the Lord without it. The Apostle John clearly stated:

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him" and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:3-4

The "I Will" of Right Thinking.

I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

Psalm 119:15

This tells us that the Psalmist would think properly. He would do his own thinking and not wait for someone else to do it for him. He would fully exercise his mind. Not only would he think, but he would think about the right things. He would not clutter his mind with worthless, evil, vain thoughts. God's precepts would be "food" for his mind. Filling the mind with God's Word helps purge the heart and leaves no room for evil thoughts that corrupt a person's life (John. 15:3). The Apostle Paul stated it this way:

Finally brethren whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things. Philippians. 4:8

The "I Will" of Effort.

I will run in the way of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart. Psalm 119:32

Note carefully the word "run." Any jogger knows that running involves effort. They might take a light stroll without much effort, but not so with running. We have to exert ourselves when we run; it takes earnestness; it involves an objective or purpose in mind when an individual runs. Note also that the Psalmist would restrict his running to "the way" of God's commandments. He was not going to just run to and fro or take a wrong path. He was determined to run in the way of God's commandments. Again, the words of the Apostle Paul come to mind:

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty... 1. Corinthians 9:26a

The "I will" of an Evangelistic Attitude.

I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings,
and will not be ashamed. Psal m.119:46

Here we have an example of one who believed that men in high positions of authority needed to hear and know God's law just like everyone else. He was determined to look for an opportunity

to talk to others about God's Word. Think of John the Baptist who spoke so boldly to King Herod, even though it cost him his head on a platter (Mark.6:14-29), or when the Apostle Paul spoke to men like Felix the Governor and King Agrippa (Acts 24:24-27;26:24-29). Surely, this must be the "I Will" that we proclaim today because this is God's gospel plan to all manind today (See Romans 1:14-17). May the "I Will" statements of Psalm119 help us in our service to God as Christians in our own generation today? And to preach the good news of salvation, Mark 16:15-16. . .

The Apostle Paul

Jonathan Ashurst, Byron GA

In the last several issues, we have been looking at the lives of Jesus' twelve apostles. In the last issue, we discussed Matthias, the apostle who replaced Judas Iscariot. In this issue, we examine the life of a unique apostle: Paul.

We first encounter this man in the book of Acts. He had two names. From Acts 7:58 to 13:9, he is referred to by his Hebrew name, Saul. ("SHAWOOL" Hebrew meaning "desired"). From Acts 13:9 onwards he is called by his Roman name, Paul ("Paulos" - Latin meaning "small" or "humble"). He was a Jew by birth and a Roman citizen by inheritance. (Acts 22:3, 25-28).

Saul was present at the stoning of Stephen, condoning the council's actions (Acts 7:58, 8:1). After Stephen's death, Saul began a widespread persecution of the church (Acts 8:1-4). Because many fled to Damascus, Saul obtained permission from the high priest to arrest and bring back these Christians to Jerusalem for trial (Acts 9:1-2). However, he was about to experience a life-changing encounter.

In his own words, this is what happened next:

Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me,

'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' Acts 22:6-8.

The Lord directed Saul to go to the city of Damascus and promised that “there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.” (Acts 22:10). Because he had been blinded by the light, Saul's companions helped direct him into the city (Acts 22:11).

Three days later, a follower of Jesus named Ananias came to Saul, giving him a message from the Lord, healing him of his blindness, and leading him to wash away his sins in baptism (Acts 22:12-16).

Saul had been zealous in his persecution of Christians; now he became an enthusiastic follower of Christ. Immediately he began reasoning from the Scriptures that Jesus was the promised Messiah (Acts 9:20-22). His opponents could not fault his reasoning, but they did try to stop him from sharing it. He was now the one being persecuted (Acts 9:23-25). Through the years, he would suffer many afflictions for Jesus' sake (2 Corinthians 11:23-33). However, he rejoiced in the opportunity to suffer in the service of his Saviour (Romans 5:3-5).

Paul travelled throughout Judea, Syria, Asia Minor, and Greece to share the gospel and strengthen churches (Acts 11:27-30, Acts 12:25, Acts 13:1-21:26). He continued to communicate with these far-away friends by writing to them. About half of the books in the New Testament are letters that Paul wrote to fellow believers. We have letters which he wrote to churches in the following places: Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossi, and Thessalonica. We also have some letters which he wrote to these individuals: Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Some people think that Paul wrote the letter to the Hebrews as well.

In Acts 21, Luke describes Paul's arrest in Jerusalem. After his nephew heard about a plot against Paul's life, Paul was taken to the coastal garrison of Caesarea (Acts 23:12-35). Here he

defended himself before governor Felix, but was left in prison for two years (Acts 24). After Felix was replaced by Festus, Paul was afraid that he would be sent back to Jerusalem, so he appealed to Caesar (Acts 25:1-12). When Festus was visited by King Agrippa and his wife Bernice, Paul had another opportunity to defend his innocence and to share the gospel message. However, since he had appealed to Caesar, they were required to send him to Rome, where Paul would stand trial before the emperor himself (Acts 25:13-26:32).

Through his various experiences on the journey to Rome, Paul was able to share yet again the wisdom and power of God (Acts 27:1-28:15). Even while under house arrest in Rome, Paul was able to encourage the Christians there and to preach without hindrance (Acts 28:16-31).

Near the end of his life, Paul wrote the following words to Timothy:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2.Timothy 4:6-8.

In the life of Paul, we see the power of the gospel to change lives. Jesus tells us to pray for our persecutors (Matthew 5:43-48). We should realize that some people mistakenly see killing Christians as their religious duty (John 16:1-4). We can pray that God will open their eyes to the truth, as He did Paul's. Like Paul, let us also follow the Lord Jesus as we eagerly anticipate His second appearing.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us,

that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Titus 2:11-15.

Reflections

James Lim, Lavender, Singapore

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is DESERT. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen... Acts 8:26-27a

1. Why was "desert" specifically mentioned in this passage?

Of all the many verses in the prophecies and 66 chapters in Isaiah, the verse about the Messiah caught the attention of this eunuch. Was it coincidental?

God can reach you anywhere, even in isolation of cyberspace; and regardless of social status.

In the desert of your circumstances, through social media (eg, Facebook or Twitter), you will come across His Word that will provoke you deeply.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

2. Do you hold certain beliefs that are true to the Word but dare not take a stand for fear of some group of people?

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him. John 12: 42

Do you feel you have to toe the line otherwise...:

lest they should be put out of the synagogue; John 12:42

As a result, you will:

- not be welcomed and be fellowshiped in certain gatherings?
- not invited to preach?
- not be welcomed in lectureships and seminars?
- not sit in panels of discussion?
- lose of your importance?
- lose your sponsorship or funding ?

Because...

they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12:43

Who are these people whom you are so willing to please?

Your headquarters?

How do you think God would consider such behaviour?

And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 16:15

3. Christianity is based on evidences and proofs, not on mere claims.

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many **infallible proofs** being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3

You cannot prove that Buddha was enlightened. How do you validate the claim that angel Gabriel appeared to Muhammad? These are claims yet to be proven.

The Resurrection of Jesus can be proven! (Romans 1:3-4, Acts 1:3 ed.)

- He was crucified by the enemy, the Romans. (Matthew 27:26,35 ed.)
- The guards to the tomb were Romans! (Matthew 27 62-66 ed.)
- The tomb belonged to someone else. (Matthew 27 57-60 ed.)

- The Romans were the ones who checked and ensured that He was dead.
(Matthew 27:65-66 ed.)

With logical deduction you can come to your own conclusions from corroborated evidences that the tomb was empty and He died and resurrected!

Paul allowed his faith to public scrutiny when he declared that Christians are most pitiable if Jesus did not resurrect.

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 1Cor.15: 17-19

4. Are you cowardly?

It is interesting that the cowardly do not get to heaven

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8

I think it has to do with Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

The fearful or cowardly do not believe that God is able, thus it is impossible for this person to please Him.

5. How shall it be seasoned?

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall **it** be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Matthew 5:13

I always thought that such "salt" is ineffective in influencing others but the choice of words is interesting:

how can it be seasoned/salted?

This does not mean: "how can it season?"

It is in the passive voice.

It means "how can **it be** seasoned/salted?" (compare: Mark 9:50 and Luke 14:34. I am grateful for this insight, editor.)

It is not about your loss of ability to do to others. It is what cannot be done by you anymore. If you lose your "saltiness" you will be thrown away and trampled. No restoration? This reminds me of these verses:

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there **no longer** remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Hebrews 10:26-27

Where are you heading?

Kim Boland, Abergavenny.

It is a sad fact of our life that, as the old saying has it, only two things are unavoidable; they are death and taxes.

For many it is not easy to contemplate that one day we will be on our own death bed, unless we are taken by a tragic accident. In either event, the result is the same: we depart this life.

Many people believe that this is a final end and that there will be no afterlife. This is a sad view to take, making our time on earth all we will have, not allowing for any chance to rejoin lost friends and loved ones.

To deny any afterlife is to deny the existence of God. It is to make our life meaningless and selfish.

Before we enter any afterlife we must first die:

That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

1 Corinthians 15:36.

As with the seeds in the garden so it is with man:

it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. 1 Corinthians 15:44

How does a seed die? This has been much discussed. We can

buy a packet of seeds for our gardens and leave it in the cupboard. After 10 years it will still be there. However, there is a chance after this time that we can put it in the earth and it will rise to a new and more glorious life, fulfilling its real potential. As a seed it was unexciting. So it is with men. In our bodies we only reflect potential. To realise that potential we need to die, in order to rise again.

There are many examples already in nature of this change. We are all aware of the wonderful change of the caterpillar to a wonderful and delicate butterfly. A tadpole changes into a frog.

God has given us these examples to show that we must change from our physical body into something that is spiritual. Paul tells us:

As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 1 Corinthians 15:48-49.

(compare: Philippians 3:20-21 and 1.John 3:2)

He reinforces his point that we cannot rise to the heavenly unless we leave the flesh and die:

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed" 1.Corinthians 15:50-52.

Note: "we shall be changed" !

Does this mean that everyone will be heavenly? Whether we are heavenly will depend solely on our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can know that we have only one chance; we will die but once:

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that

comes judgment. Hebrews 9:27.

What is this “judgement”?

Christ will return for those that are his. Those found not being Christ’s will not be welcomed by Jesus:

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28.

Those not found waiting for Christ will be lost, They will not be changed, but as spiritual beings suffer for their hardness while on earth.

Oh, how terrible not to be found waiting! Note that we will not be saved by how good we are, or by how many good deeds we have done. We are made righteous before God through Christ:

if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:10-11

We need to consider where we are going. We will not be saved by any deeds we do, but by being found in Christ.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27.

Song of Songs

Samuel Appiah-Anane, Stretford, Manchester.

Coming back to reading Song of Songs (also known as Song of Solomon) after many years has brought to my attention some learning points for myself, which I would like to share. The first of which is the title. I admit to being confused whether “Song of Songs” or “Song of Solomon” being the ‘correct’ title, having seen both in different Bible translations. I had to look no further than the very first verse “The Song of Song’s, which is

Solomon's" (Song of Songs 1:1 ESVUK) to find both to be 'correct' (not that my approval was ever needed).

The second was that I learned where the chorus "He invites us in to his banqueting table and his banner over us is love" is taken from Song of Songs 2:4 (ESVUK), which was a pleasant surprise.

The third learning point is emphasized three times in this short Biblical book. Generally speaking, when something is repeated by the same author in the same book (or even in the same phrase cf. 'Verily, verily') it is for emphasis, even more so when the phrase, quote, denial or question is mentioned three times. In this case, it is found in Song of Songs 2:7, 3:5 and 8:4 where the daughters of Jerusalem are urged not to "arouse or awaken love until it so desires". There are lessons to be learned of not awakening love before it desires. The Old Testament has some examples (thinking of Abraham and Hagar and thinking of David with Bathsheba, both examples where the men acted impatiently, not out of love, but out of a lack of faith and lust respectively).

The phrase "I wish I would have waited" has been uttered many times in this topic of love over the years.

When it comes to love, God's timing is perfect. Not only that, but God's love is perfect. The love described in Song of Songs is wonderful, but being in the presence and love of God eternally in heaven with no distractions will be so much more wonderful.

I know full well that:

All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

2.Timothy 3:16 (ESVUK)

That very much includes this 'song'. Despite being graphic and not a Biblical book often read or studied publicly, I encourage you to read (or re-read) Song of Songs as it is profitable for sure and I for one am glad to have re-visited Song of Songs.

The First to Know

Allan Ashurst

Who was the first to know that the oceans had currents?

Was it Matthew F. Maury (18c) or King David (c.1050 BC)?

.... fish pass through **the paths of the seas.** Psalm 8:8

Who was the first to know that the earth is round?

Was it Pythagoras (c.500BC)? or Isaiah (c.712 BC)?

.... **the circle of the earth.** Isaiah 40:22

Who was the first to know the earth is suspended in space?

Was it Pythagorus (c.500BC)? or Job (c.1520 BC)?

He **hangs the earth on nothing.** Job 26:7

So - who was the first to know? It was....

The Creator (αBC)!

"You are worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honour and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11

BAPTISMS

Ulverston, Cumbria.

Laura Denton was baptised for the remission of her sins on Friday 19th February. She was received into the Church on the Lords day 21st. Laura is new to Churches of Christ. After studying the scriptures she decided she wanted to belong to the family of God and to become a child of God. Your prayers please, that she grows in her walk with God.

Brotherly love.

Bill. Thistlethwaite

Stretford, Manchester.

We are indeed overwhelmed with happiness to announce that Ezekiel Erinoso decided to give his life to the Lord. He confessed in front of men in his own words that Christ is the Son of God with all his heart. He was then baptised into The name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit on the 15th of February. We are grateful to the church in Hindley for all their help. Continue to pray for our brother Ezekiel for his growth in the Lord.

Pilomon Raja

NOTICES

STRETFORD, Manchester.

The Green Hut, 538 Kings Rd. M32 8JT

Saturdays 2016.

March 19 th. 1pm Lunch provided.

2pm "In Christ Alone"

Samuel Appiah-Anane (Liverpool)

May 21 st. 10:30am Registration.

11am Speaker.

1pm Lunch. 2pm Quiz.

3pm Speaker.

4pm Announcements.

October 1 st. 1pm Lunch. 2pm

Speaker

Each talk followed by discussion.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS 2016

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Seymour Road, NG16 3ND

Saturdays. 2016

6.00 pm Refreshments

7.00 pm Message

May 14 th.

August 13 th.

November 12 th.

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