

# Scripture Standard

**Volume 87-3**  
**September 2020**

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

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**contend earnestly for the faith**  
**Jude 1:3**

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## **SIGN OVER CROSS - part 3**

Jonathan Ashurst, Lexington KY

In the March issue, we discussed the sign over the cross, contrasting it with the tower of Babel. In June, we examined the languages used on the sign by Pilate. In this issue, let us study more closely the context of the words themselves.

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** John 19:19 NKJV

**JESUS** — This name means “Jehovah is Saviour.” It corresponds to the Aramaic name Yeshua, derived from the Hebrew name Joshua. The angel Gabriel told Mary and Joseph to give this name to the coming child (Luke 1:31; Matthew 1:21).

Just as Joshua had been a saviour figure, leading the people to victory, Yeshua (Jesus) would bring salvation to the world.

**NAZARETH** — In contrast to his promising name, Jesus grew up in a location that was of low reputation. The city of Nazareth had long been looked down upon. Even in the days of King Solomon, the neighbouring King Hiram expressed disappointment after visiting the region. (I Kings 9:10-14)

Before Nathanael became one of Jesus’ apostles, he scoffed, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:45-46) It certainly

was not the place from which the people expected greatness to emerge.

**KING** — Jesus' claim to be a king put him at odds with many of the Jewish authorities and Roman occupiers. (John 19:12) His arrival had been announced in the midst of a complex and corrupt political climate. (Luke 3:1-6) Jesus himself spoke often about the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 4:12-17)

When Pilate asked about his claims, Jesus affirmed them. Christ's assertion of divine authority struck fear into the heart of Pilate. Rome's power was limited by its earthly origins; thus, it struck out in fear against any who seemed to threaten it, including Jesus. (John 18:33-19:16)

**JEWS** — The Jews had many famous rulers in their history. From mighty kings like Saul, David, and Solomon, to godly rulers like Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah, the Jews had a rich heritage. At this time, however, they were under the control of the Roman government.

Though Jesus was their promised Messiah, they had turned against him. Instead of accepting their true king, they pressured the Romans to crucify him. The Roman soldiers taunted Jesus, seeming to think it ridiculous that he would claim to be king of an oppressed people. Nevertheless, it was as a Jew that the King of heaven had become incarnate. (Psalm 2)

**SUMMARY** — Having considered the connotations of these words, imagine what irony these two phrases held:

Jesus	of	Nazareth	King	of the	Jews
The Saviour	from	the Fringes	The Leader	of the	Lowly

From whence do you expect your saviour to arise? To whom do you look for leadership? Let us ponder the effect these words must have had on those who viewed them. May they inform the way we engage with the world. God often brings hope and victory through places and people we might least expect Him to choose.

(1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

# IN HASTE

Allan Ashurst, Stretford

AVIV	THE LORD'S DECISIVE PASSOVER MEAL	
14th	1st day of Unleavened, when Passover must be killed. The feast is prepared. Late in the day* Jesus and the twelve recline. Jesus' hour is come.	Matt.26:17 Luke.22:4 * [ 'οψιας ] John 13:1
15th	The evening meal is progressing. Judas' mind is set on betraying Jesus. Jesus washes even his feet. Jesus says "I yearn deeply to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, because, I tell you that I definitely won't eat it, any more, until when it's fulfilled, in God's kingdom."	Luke 22:15 -18.
1st cup	Receiving the cup, giving thanks, he says "take this and share it amongst yourselves, because, I am telling you, that from this moment, I definitely do not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God should come."  Satan enters Judas' body and he goes out and it is night - my understanding is that this happened after passing the sop but before the instigation of the Lord's Supper...	Matt.26:27 Mark 14:23 Luke 22:19 1.Cor.11:24  Matt.26:27 Mark 14:22
The loaf	As they eat, Jesus takes a loaf, gives thanks, says "Take. Eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." John 13:31-35, 14:1-2, 15:1-4, 16:1, 32-33. After the evening meal, taking the cup he gives it to them saying "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is being poured out for you, for many for the remission of	Luke 22:19 John 13:30  1.Cor.11:25
2nd cup	sins." John 17:1-6, 25-26. "Verily I say to you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Over Brook Kidron, into the garden. Jesus praying. Disciples sleeping. Jesus is arrested. The disciples flee.	Luke 22:20 Matt.26:27 Mark 14:23 Matt.26:29 Mark 14:25 John 18:1-2
	HASTE: Everything from resorting to the upper room, His arrest; the trials before Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate to Herod, back to Pilate (the priests outside, still wanting to eat Passover before sunrise); the floggings; the crucifixion; the appeal for burial; His burial - everything - within one 24 hour Hebrew day, (Sunset the 14th to sunset the 15th.)  c.p. Mary Magdalene comes before sunrise in the dark to the tomb on the 1st day of the week and He was not there.	John 18:13,24, 28. Ex.12:10-11  John 20:1

See the complete parallel Gospel on the web at  
<http://simplychristians.eu/muqaddas/muqaddas/parallel/index.htm>

## LIFTED UP!

Pilomon Raja, Stretford

*Since the restrictions were put in place the lessons from Stretford have been put online. Below is an edited sample from one lesson given by Pilomon Raja who has been responsible for much of the work required to conduct the online meetings. Hear the complete lesson at [https://youtu.be/fgGtOX\\_Hn3s](https://youtu.be/fgGtOX_Hn3s) or search the Stretford church of Christ YouTube website for this and other lessons.*

It's been a difficult time during the lockdown and we have reflected together on how difficult it has been. We have struggled in many different ways, whether with our physical health, or our mental health, or in other ways. But now we are talking about recovery. In a way we are going back to what is being referred to as a "new normal." We should not be going back to what life was but we will be going back to something new.

During the lockdown some people have become very close, finding time to speak to their friends and spending more time with their children, since they are not in school. Working from home has also led to families spending more time together and growing closer.

Thinking about this new closeness raises the question, Have you ever been in love? In love with your pets, your puppy or goldfish? In love with your children, parents, siblings. In love with your job, your food, your life?

Have you noticed that feelings of love seem to come and go? You feel that it's not the same anymore. You're not given the same kind of love or respect. You feel neglected and taken for granted.

You lose your first love for your job, for your friends and family, for your life. What about your love for God?

Before the pandemic we were carrying on with the meaninglessness of this life - as Solomon put it, vanity. Everything under the sun is meaningless or purposeless. We surround

ourselves with a darkness, clouds form around us, and we feel that we can't see anything beyond. We can't see anything below, and we are completely surrounded. We feel that we're already burdened so much that we can't really think of anything else other than what we are doing to get by.

Whatever we do in our relationship with God, or in our understanding of God, or in our love for God, we are not satisfied by it anymore. We can get distracted when we meet as a church. Our minds wander and we think about worldly concerns. Did I do this? Did I not do that? Monday's coming.

The messages preached on Sundays may become like water off a duck's back. We just don't really take notice of it. Then we hear expressions like, Church is boring and, I don't feel the same connection. Our faith gets weaker so our love gets weaker. Our individual relationship with God suffers. We don't have those quiet moments with God. We overbook commitments. I certainly see that my diary is always filled. We only want to give God the time that's left over. We don't rush anymore to talk to our God in prayer and quietness in our own rooms but give God our crumbs.

God is full of love, but He is somebody to be revered and feared as well. We say to ourselves that it doesn't really matter what we do because we are under grace and we find excuses. We love Jesus and that's great. That should be enough, but soon we start neglecting Him and soon we start taking Him for granted as well.

So we need to be really, really mindful of what we are doing. Do we really have the first love that we had for Him? Or do we even start blaming God when these things happen?

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Revelation 2:4-5 NKJV

If you're one of those, in that cloud or in that darkness, we seem to be in good company here because these are the same people

who have lost their first love.

So if you look at it on paper, the church in Ephesus looks amazing. They've got the works, they've got the labor, they've got the patience, they can't bear evildoers, they can test apostles. They're doing everything right, and can toe the line really well - but they had lost their first love.

We, too, can keep on doing good things, but not have the first love. It's time to reflect on the recovery or the "new normal." Where are we? Where are we with our first love?

1 Corinthians 13 is a beautiful chapter on love that reminds us not to become like a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

If you have left your first love, remember. What do we need to bring to our remembrance?

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Remember this, that it is not you who live, but it is Christ who lives in you. Is Christ really living in us? Our whole identity is Christ, in us.

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:1-3

It is not what you do, but it is what Christ did for you. We need to remind ourselves what Christ did for us, and that is how you will know why you had your first love for Christ when you first came to know Him.

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

John 12:32-33

Jesus was lifted up. He died for you and me and He draws you by the Gospel and it is for you to respond. He took the punishment that was due to us and He took it upon Himself so we could be saved. Remember that first love and remember that He bore the punishment that we deserved - Jesus paid the price for us all. Do you have the same first love as you had when you became Christians? Christ gave His all for you.

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works  
Revelation 2:5

Repent. We use the word repentance when we are becoming Christians because we turn around. Nowadays, when using the lockdown language, they call it the reset button. Let's reset it all, let's relaunch it, let's do things differently. Repent: turn around, completely change.

Repentance is not just for before you became Christians, but what you are now. What are you doing now? Do you have the same love for your God? Are we bearing fruit? Are we abounding in the fruit of the Spirit? Let's repent and do the first works. These first works are not just the works with church, but the works that we have to do individually.

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his

own load. Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Galatians 5:24-6:7

We need to be continuously reminded of the love of Christ who was lifted up for us. As brothers and sisters we slide away when we don't have the first love and that is true with any relationship. We need to be very careful that our foundation is in God and our love for Him is paramount. Then everything else falls into place.

We are on the point of recovery, but this is not the time to drop guard.

Remind yourself of Him being lifted up and lifted up for you.

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### **NUGGETS FROM PROVERBS**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One  
is understanding. Prov 9:10

Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it spring the issues of life Prov 4:23

Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov 22:6

The Lord will destroy the house of the proud,  
But He will establish the boundary of the widow. Prov 15:25

Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all sins. Prov 10:12

He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,  
And He will pay back what he has given. Prov 19:17

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger. Prov 15:1



As iron sharpens iron,  
So a man sharpens the countenance  
of his friend. Prov 27:17

Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
Than a house full of feasting with strife. Prov 17:1

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths. Prov 3:5-6

Commit your works to the Lord,  
And your thoughts will be established. Prov 16:3

There is a way that seems right to a man,  
But its end is the way of death. Prov 14:12

A merry heart does good, like medicine,  
But a broken spirit dries the bones. Prov 17:22

Who can find a virtuous wife?  
For her worth is far above rubies. Prov 31:10

Go to the ant, you sluggard!  
Consider her ways and be wise,  
Which, having no captain,  
Overseer or ruler,  
Provides her supplies in the summer,  
And gathers her food in the harvest. Prov 6:6-8

My son, keep your father's command,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother.  
Bind them continually upon your heart;  
Tie them around your neck.  
When you roam, they will lead you;  
When you sleep, they will keep you;  
And when you awake, they will speak with you. Prov 6:20-22

## WORDS OF FATHERS

Mark Ashurst, Lexington KY

Identify the fathers who spoke these words and to whom they were spoken. See answers on the next page.

1. "God has appointed another seed for me"
2. "This one will comfort us concerning our work"
3. "God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."
4. "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples"
5. "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"
6. "What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"
7. "go and look for the donkeys."
8. "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."
9. "know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind"
10. "you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest"
11. "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
12. "I will be a Father to you"

Reading the words of these fathers might make you think about your own father. What things did he say to you? Many of his words have probably stuck with you over the years. A father's love and encouragement, expressed through words and deeds, can make a huge difference in a child's life. Many of us have been blessed to have fathers like this; many have not. But for all of us, there is another Father, and the Word He has given us is Jesus Christ Himself. Because of His sacrifice, we can be children of God. An earthly father's words can be powerful, but the Heavenly Father's Word changes everything. Why would God choose to adopt us? Why would He want us to be His children? This is the heart of our loving Heavenly Father.

## ANSWERS TO FATHERS QUIZ

1. Adam about Seth (Genesis 4:25)
  2. Lamech about Noah (Genesis 5:29)
  3. Abraham to Isaac (Genesis 22:8)
  4. Isaac to Jacob (Genesis 28:3)
  5. Israel to Joseph (Genesis 48:11)
  6. Manoah about Samson (Judges 13:12)
  7. Kish to Saul (1 Samuel 9:3)
  8. Jesse about David (1 Samuel 16:11)
  9. David to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:9)
  10. Zechariah to John (Luke 1:76)
  11. God to Jesus (Mark 1:11)
  12. God to us (2 Corinthians 6:18)
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## OBITUARY

### **Barbara Hunter - Motherwell, Scotland**

We chronicle the death of sister Barbara Hunter, who passed away on the 22nd May, 2020 at the age of 86. Barbara will be registered as a COVID-19 victim, although she had been in poor health for some time.

Barbara was the third of five daughters born to William and Barbara Hunter. She was baptized in 1953 and remained a faithful member to the end. Barbara pursued a nursing career and rose to the level of a Ward Sister. She did much of her training in Glasgow and London. Her career was interrupted by a long-term illness; but she returned to work, and, latterly, became a Health Visitor. The congregation will miss her, above all, for her wisdom, reliability, steadfastness and benevolence. She was never fearful of speaking the truth to indifference, apathy and, on occasions, not a little hostility. She loved the Lord – and it showed. She is survived by her sister Jenny Scobbie and many relatives, including ten nephews and nieces. She loved them all and all her family in the Lord. She was a loyal friend to many too. Her funeral took place at Airbles Cemetery, Motherwell with small number in attendance because of the present restrictions. Brother Ian Davidson officiated. A copy of the service is available to anyone interested.

William Purcell, secretary

## GHANA APPEAL

The Church of Christ at Dennyloanhead is very grateful to all sister churches, individual brothers and sisters who contribute to the Ghana Appeal.

Please send donations to: Mrs. Christine Wood, 11 Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RE Email: [ctkwood@hotmail.com](mailto:ctkwood@hotmail.com)

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### THE SCRIPTURE STANDARD

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION – UNITED KINGDOM .....£5.00

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