

Scripture Standard

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

WELSH BAPTISTERIES

In Scripture Standard volume 79 issue 3 was a picture of a 6th century baptistery high on the mountain above Llanfyllin. There are relics of numerous "holy wells" in Britain, mostly in Wales. Some are known to have been for immersing believers to become Christians.



This restored example, in Llanrhaeadr (LL16 4N) on the A525, is called St. Dyfnog's well. Dyfnog is reputed to have established a church nearby in the 6th century. Some believe the pool dates back to the 2nd century.

Salt and Light

Derek L. Daniel, Tunbridge Wells

You are the salt of the earth ... [Matthew 5:13]

The teachings of Jesus contain many illustrations drawn from nature and the customs of men. Here we have the example of salt, which has two outstanding qualities, preserving and rendering truth more agreeable to taste. The lives of true disciples will shed the truth from God among mankind by example and teaching and thus contribute to the salvation of their souls. Salt can preserve and perpetuate the good qualities of man and as Jesus exhorted His disciples not to let the salt of their good lives lose its strength. They could have peace with one another by using the salt of brotherly love [Mark 9:50]. The apostle Paul wrote:

your speech should be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. [Colossians 4:6]

The trials and hardships of this life will be easier to bear and will 'taste better' for knowing the salt of divine truth.

But if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?

It will no longer be either a preserver or a palliative because the disciples will cease to be an influence for good by word or deed.

It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under peoples feet. [Matthew 5:13]

Are you the salt of the earth?

You are the light of the world ... [Matthew 5:14-15]

How, can this be true when Jesus claimed to be the light of the world [John 8:12].

For in Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

[John 1:4]

As light dispels darkness and enables man to see his way, so

the Christian, by his teaching and example reflects the life and light of Christ. His church is to be seen as a beacon of truth and righteousness in a dark world of sin.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light – for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true – and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. [Ephesians 3:8-10]

In shining out as lights in a dark world it is not to draw attention to ourselves but to the Father in heaven and to Jesus who is the true light of the world. As His disciples we are to

be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation among whom you shine as lights in the world. [Philippians 2:15]

Are you shining out for Jesus?

Three Things that the Devil Hates

Henry Kong, Pasir Panjang, Singapore.

1. The devil hates it when you seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). His tactic is to divide and conquer. When Christians do not forsake the assembly but exhort one another (Hebrews 10:25), the devil doesn't like it one bit. It also burns him up when we give priority to worshipping God in spirit and in truth.
2. The devil hates it when the church is united. At every opportunity he gets, the devil will accuse our leaders (Revelations 12:10), sow seeds of dissension and divide the church (1 Corinthians 12:25) over any and every trivial matter. But when the church closes ranks, holds steadfastly one to another and will not let up, slow up or give up, the devil cannot sleep nights.
3. The devil hates it when the church is united in prayer. As every man and woman, boy and girl takes the focus off self and rely upon God to carry us through (Ephesians 6:18), the devil knows that he doesn't stand a chance and trembles (James 2:19).

Brethren, don't give the devil a good time - uplift the church, stay united and pray with all supplications and giving of thanks.

Foreword to Fred Miller's article

Allan Ashurst

Some of you might have come across a new denomination called 'Iglesia ni Cristo' (Filipino for 'Church of Christ') and wondered who they were.

It was founded in 1914 by a man named Felix Y. Manolo. He claimed to be the last messenger of Christ and to fulfill several prophecies, and claiming to be: "ravenous bird from the east" (Isaiah 46:11), "worm Jacob" (Psalm 22:6-7), "the one shepherd" (John 10:16) and "the last Elijah" (Malachi 4:5).

Was F. Manalo the "ravenous bird from the east"?

Fred P. Miller, Carrollton, GA

"ravenous bird..." (Isaiah. 46:11)

The passage in Isaiah, that Manalo claims speaks of him, is obviously part of the incredible predictions relating to Cyrus the Mede who released the captive nations, including Israel, from Babylonian and Assyrian bondage. Isaiah begins to predict him first obscurely and then adds more information and finally making it so plain that the references can't be missed, even to mentioning his name and the things he would accomplish, The "ravenous bird from the east," is amongst these descriptions of Cyrus written over 200 years before his appearance. All the references to Cyrus follow:

Isaiah 41:2 **Who raised up the righteous man from the east**, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow. 3 He pursued them, and passed safely; even by the way that he had not gone with his feet

25 I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treads clay.

44:26 Who confirms the word of his servant, and performs the counsel of his messengers; The one saying to Jerusalem, You shall be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, you shall be built, and I will raise up your decayed places: 27 Who says to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up your rivers: 28 **Who says of Cyrus**, he is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, you shall be built; and to the temple, your foundation shall be laid.

45:1. Thus says the LORD to his anointed, **to Cyrus**, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two doored gates; and the gates shall not be shut; 2 I will go before you, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass [or bronze] and cut apart the bars of iron: 3 And I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who calls you by your name, am the God of Israel. 4 For my servant Jacob's sake, and Israel my elect, I have even called you by your name: I have surnamed you, though you have not known me.

45:13. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let my captives go, not for price nor reward, says the LORD of hosts. 14 Thus says the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you, and they shall be yours: they shall come after you; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down to you, they shall make supplication to you, saying, Surely God is in you; and there is none else, there is no God.

46:11 **Calling a ravenous bird from the east**, the man that

executes my counsel from a far country: yes, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

48:14. All of you, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them has declared these things? The LORD has loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans. 15 I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

"worm Jacob" (Psalm 22:6-7)

All of Psalm 22 is about Jesus last days on earth from the first words showing the garden agony from verses 1-6. Actually verse one is not a fact but the agony of aloneness that Jesus feels. None of the facts in verse 2-6 are real. They represent agony of despair. For instance God heard every word. Verse 7 and 8 begins the experience on the cross and verse 9 is the time of His resignation to the task that only He can perform and his full faith in the need to die. The rest through verse 21 describes His experiences on the Cross.

Verse 22 announces Jesus' triumph in that moment. Verse 23 asks the rest of us to join in the joy of that triumph.

Verse 24 refutes the ridiculous notion that "God turned his back on Jesus on the cross because He, God can't look on sin!"

Verse 25 through the rest of the psalm relates the inter-nation and eternal and ongoing results of the triumph of the Cross.

A rider to Fred Miller's article

Allan Ashurst

Summarising: the "ravenous bird who came from the east" (Isaiah. 46:11) was Cyrus the Mede, who initiated the restoration of Jerusalem and the temple; the whole of the Psalm containing the word "worm ..." (Psalm 22:6-7) is about Jesus.

Also, Jesus is "the one shepherd" (John 10:16), of the one fold

in which He brings together both Jew and Gentile "sheep" and "the last Elijah" (Malachi 4:5) was John the baptist, the forerunner of Christ, (John 1:17,23,76, Matthew 17:10-11).

Felix Y. Manolo was born into a Roman Catholic family. He became a member of a non-denominational church of Christ. He later joined the "Millennial Dawnists" who claimed that the Lord Jesus would come in 1914. It was then that he began another organisation calling it 'Iglesia ni Cristo'. His grandson (Eduardo V. Manalo) succeeds him as its executive Minister.

Thomas the Twin

Jonathan Ashurst, Byron, GA

We can learn a great deal about the apostle Thomas by examining what others called him. In the gospels he is referred to as Thomas Didymus (Thomas the Twin). Today, he is often called "Doubting Thomas," because he didn't believe Jesus' resurrection until he saw Jesus for himself.

Another way to find out about Thomas is to examine the things he said. What do Thomas' conversations reveal about his character? Let's look at four of Thomas' quotes recorded in the gospel of John.

'Let us go also, that we might die with him.' (John 11:16)

Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were three siblings who lived in Bethany, a small town near Jerusalem. Jesus was very close to this family and stayed with them several times. When Lazarus became ill, his sisters sent word to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to heal their brother, but Jesus waited where he was for two more days. (John 11:1-6)

His disciples probably didn't understand why he was waiting. However, when he announced that they were returning to Judea, the disciples were even more surprised, because the Jews had recently tried to kill him there. (John 11:7-10)

Jesus explained that Lazarus had died, and that they were going to go to him. Jesus meant that he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, but the disciples misunderstood. At this point, the disciples had to choose whether or not to follow Jesus into danger and possible death. (John 11:11-15) Thomas advised his fellow apostles:

'Let us go also, that we might die with him.' (John 11:16)

To us readers who know about Lazarus' imminent resurrection, Thomas' comment seems pessimistic or even sarcastic. But it actually shows his bravery and his faithfulness to Jesus. He was willing to follow Jesus to the end, even to the death. Many years later, according to tradition, Thomas was indeed martyred for his faith.

'Lord, we do not know where you go and how can we know the way?' (John 14:5)

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus told his apostles that he was about to leave them. He encouraged them to trust God through the coming trials. Although he was going away, Jesus comforted them with the words:

'if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself, that where I am you may be also and you know where I go and you know the way.' (John 14:3-4)

At this point, Thomas expressed his confusion.

'Lord, we do not know where you go and how can we know the way?'

It seems a fair question. The apostles didn't quite understand what Jesus was saying, even though he had warned them already that he was to be killed and raised from the dead. (Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-18)

Jesus' answer to Thomas' question is probably one of the most famous verses in the Scriptures:

'I am the way, the truth and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me.' (John 14:6)

Jesus is the way; his crucifixion and resurrection have provided a way for us to live with him forever in heaven.

'Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.' (John 20:25)

After Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to several people, including Mary Magdalene, the two on the road to Emmaus, and ten of the apostles. (Luke 24; John 20) The first time Jesus appeared to the apostles, Thomas was not with them. When Thomas heard the news, he was sceptical. (If we were in his place, we probably would have been as well.) He wouldn't be able to accept this fantastic account until he had verified it for himself. Eight days later, Jesus came again; this time, Thomas was present. (John 20:24-27) Jesus told Thomas:

'Reach here your finger and behold my hands and reach here your hand and thrust it into my side and be not faithless, but believing.' (John 20:27)

Thomas needed proof, and Jesus granted it to him. He urged Thomas to trust him, and Thomas did.

'My LORD and My God.' (John 20:28)

How many emotions Thomas must have felt at this moment -- awe in his Master's presence, joy in His return, thankfulness for His patience! He was now fully convinced that his Lord had risen again, having seen him with his own eyes. Jesus reminded Thomas that future believers would not have the opportunity to see him in physical form here on earth. But Jesus says that those of us who believe will be blessed.

'Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed.' (John 20:29)

Jesus seemed to appreciate Thomas' faithfulness, honesty, and trust in Him. We should examine what we believe, so that we can be sure of the truth. Once we are convinced, we should follow Jesus no matter what. Even when we don't have

all the answers, we will be blessed if we trust in Jesus. May we all be able to honestly repeat Thomas' confession of belief:

“My LORD and My God!”

A Hindu's Dilemma

Allan Ashurst.

Until the recent removal of their monarchy Nepal was the only country where Hinduism was the official religion. The following article helps us to understand what it is like for a person brought up as a Hindu. It helps us to appreciate the dilemmas a questioning mind faces in a society steeped in Hinduism and to appreciating their joy when they find the solution to their confusions in Christ Jesus.

It is also invaluable in helping us to know better how to present the gospel to them in love.

One God or many gods?

Sunita Rore - Kathmandu

From being a little child till becoming young woman of age 26, I always heard that there are many gods and goddesses. In Nepali culture there are many festivals and many ways to celebrate and please those many gods and goddesses.

I was born into a Hindu family. Hindus believe there are many gods. All the gods and goddess have their own stories and there are different ways to please each of them. They also worship idols of stone, metal, wood and whatever else they can make them from. So, I was always very confused and always thinking about which god should I worship and please. I also wondered that if I pleased one god, then the other gods might get jealous. But I still walked in my parent's belief. One thing that was always on my mind was that if there are many gods,

and if they have their own set of rules and regulations, is it possible for heaven to be a peaceful place to live after we die? If there are not only Nepali gods, but Indian, American, English and Chinese, all the many different nations believing like Nepalis do and divided by casts, status and class. How can they all live together in heaven in peace? Hindus believe that there are 33 crore gods and goddesses in Nepal (1 crore=10 million). I used to wonder how many there would be in the whole world combined. I also would think to myself, "How can they all live together in peace?" All these questions made me confused, so my faith in the gods was weak. It made me to think and wondered about who is right and which way to followed.

One day, I got to hear about the Bible from a Christian couple. They believed in 'One Living God'. They also gave me various booklets about God and a Bible too. That changed my life and beliefs forever. When I got to know that there is only One true God in Heaven and Earth, all my confusion and frustration eventually cleared. As I started reading the Bible, I grew more and more satisfied.

One verse that really touched me was:

'Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.' (Acts.4:12)

That really cleared my doubts about which god to please. As I continued reading the scriptures, I stumbled on the verse:

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me.' (John.14:6)

Now I wanted to know about the Father? I found other words:

'Now see that I, Even I, am Me, and there is no God besides me; I kill and make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from my hand?'
(Deuteronomy.32:39)

Then I thought if He is the only God in Heaven and Earth, the

one which the Bible mentions; how can we reach Him and how can I please Him? In fact we all need to take some time and think very seriously. Do you believe in the one God? If you don't, then who do you believe in? Can the god who you believe in save us? Or does the god you believe in need your help? Can you really find him in stone or wood, and does he really have the image of animals or birds or any other living creature? Is he even smaller or weaker than we humans? We all have the capacity to differentiate between good and evil. But idols don't. They can't even think. Nor can they feed or clothe themselves. But most of us often choose to ignore this, don't we?

When I read the Bible, I got more and more curious. So I read more and more, including other booklets. I found in the scriptures that God created man and woman in His own image in six days. He also created heaven and the earth, and all the living and non-living things in the first five days. (Genesis 1:1-26)

You alone are the Lord: You have made heaven. The heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it. The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships you. (Nehemiah 9:6)

By the word of the LORD, the heavens were made, And all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth...(Psalm 33:6-9)

So I was wrong to worship and search in the wrong places. I was trying to limit the power of the Almighty to stone, wood, and images of animals and other living creatures. I was wrong, and so were the many many generations pursuing this belief. But now my eyes have been opened. There is only one God in all the universe. He is the living God. (Exodus 3:13-15, Jeremiah 4:2, Matthew. 16:16) He is a loving God. (Psalm 63:3, Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16.14: 21-23, 1.John.4:7-21)

God is our Master, so we can't think of or give Him a name like human names or animals' names. He is the almighty and has no human name. He said so Himself when He told Moses to

go and free his people from the Egyptians. Moses said to God:
When I come to the children of Israel and say to them,
'The God of our fathers has sent me to you.' and they say
to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?

And God said to Moses,
I AM WHO I AM.

And He said,
This is what you will say to the children of Israel, 'I AM
has sent me to you ... this is my name for ever.' (Exodus
3:13-15, Deuteronomy 5:1-11)

He is the I AM. He is the real God - the only God.
He is a loving God:

Because your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips
shall praise You. (Psalm 63:3, John 3:16]

So dear reader, please take a moment and think to yourself,
'What is my propose in life? Why do I exist on this earth?'
Because you are much valued in God's eyes, even more than
all other living things. Think about it and search the scriptures
to find the truth.

'God, who made the world and everything in it, since He
is Lord of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples
made by hands. Neither is He worshipped with men's
hands as though He needed anything, since He gives to
all life, breath and all things. He has made from one
blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the
earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and
the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should
seek the Lord, in the hope that they might reach out for
Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of
us, for in Him we live and move and have our existence,
as also some of your own poets have said, For we are
also His offspring.' (Acts.17:24-28)

'Therefore, since we are offspring of God, we ought not to

think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devise. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance to everyone of this by raising Him from the dead.' (Acts 17: 29-31)

The Temptation of Man

V.Sujatha. Stretford.

Man is a being who is never satisfied with what he has. Man's curiosity tempts him to do what is restricted. When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them all the trees and their good fruits of Eden garden to eat, but they were tempted and ate from the tree of "The Knowledge of good and evil". God had commanded him not to eat from that tree but his temptation led him to sin, to go against God. Man has always been tempted by Satan by the worldly things and he keeps drifting away from God. When God made man he was very good. God made him in his own likeness. But when He saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, God regretted that he had made man (Genesis 6:5,6).

It is said that man is a social animal. He is very much involved with and is influenced by the people around him like his friends and colleagues. He goes to parties to socialise with other people. The major issues of immorality facing us today are alcohol, tobacco and drugs. We see more and more youngsters involved with them. These are often found in all kinds of parties whether it is a business party, a social party or a youngster's party. These sometimes include drugs. When you sit with your friends who drink and smoke, do they insist you to have a sip or try to smoke just once? The common line they use is "you should try everything in life at least once". If you agree, that

once becomes twice, twice becomes thrice and thrice becomes many. In Corinthians 6:19,20 Paul said that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in us, we are not your own.

What does the Bible say about those who drink?

Habakkuk 2:15,16 says:

Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbour, offering him your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you might look on his nakedness. You are filled with shame instead of glory.

What does the Bible say about Alcohol?

Proverb 23:31,32 says:

Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are harmful to one's body, they are similar in destruction. We must present our body a living, holy sacrifice (Roman 12:12).

Our body is a temple of God and by falling into temptation we defile the temple of God, which we are. Our lives are to bring glory and honour to our Father in heaven through our good works (Matthew 5:16).

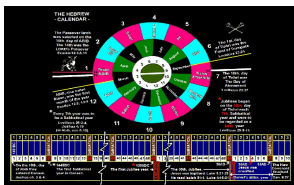
Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak, but man will not be tempted more than he is able to bear (1.Corinthians 10:13).

How do we get faith?

"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
(Romans 10:17)

"it is impossible to please [God] without faith, because he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards those who seek him, diligently."
(Hebrews 11:6)

NEWS and INFORMATION



Reference: Issue 78-4 December 2011.
CORRECTION to the A4 sheet insert.
Paragraph: "In the Law of Moses:
"6th. Month." should read "7th. month."
Please correct your copies.

I apologise for the error. Allan Ashurst

EASTWOOD, Nottinghamshire.

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Saturdays

6.00 pm Refreshments

7.00 pm Message

May 11

Speaker to be confirmed.

August 10

Jon Galloway

November 9

Ian Davidson

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BIBLE QUESTIONS

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