

-ERADICATION-

For ages men have vainly hoped that in some way they could lay aside the nature that is inherited from Adam. They would like to escape the pull and the tendency and the temptation to sin. So they have tried to attain unto a state in which they cannot sin, where the old nature is completely eradicated. But what would happen if such a thing could be accomplished?

Now let us for a moment imagine that such a thing could be possible. We know from our study of biology that characteristics of parents are transmitted to offspring. We know that the old nature is inherited. Now suppose that a young couple be married and have offspring. If the parents had experienced eradication as some claim, then we could expect the children to be free from that taint. Here would be the beginning of a generation free from original sin. They would be like Adam and Eve before the fall in Eden. They would never need to die. They would be incapable of sin under the same conditions for the forbidden tree is not here now. Do you think such a thing could occur?

Since it is thru the inheritance of the old nature that death comes upon all, we could soon eliminate death from the earth. Then there would be no need of resurrection. Soon the work on Calvary would not be needed for mankind. Redemption thru the blood would become an obsolete doctrine.

But it hasn't happened. It won't happen. We must be reconciled to the fact that in this life we live in the flesh. We will carry it to the grave and beyond to the resurrection itself. Only there will this corruption put on incorruption, and mortality put on immortality. It is only thru death and resurrection that the old nature can be eradicated.

Let us be very careful about taking up with some theory which will deny the shedding of the precious blood of Christ for our sins. Also we still need the final step in redemption -- resurrection.

-SUPPRESSION-

A few years ago we had certain groups of people in this country who thought that all folks had to be either Fascists or Communists. It did not occur to them that a person could be a 100% American and know nothing of these two theories. Just so in the realm of theology many think that you must either believe in the eradication or the suppression of the old nature. It has not come into their minds that there might be a third way, and a Scriptural way of handling this problem of the old nature.

We have just noted how impossible it would be to eradicate the flesh. It is just as foolish to try to suppress it. The old nature is not subject to the law of God, neither can be. If that be true, then how can we make a law that would be able to cope with it?

Thru the ages man has tried almost every method to suppress the old nature. He has made pledges, he has joined societies, he has made vows, and he has even shut himself off in monasteries away from other men. But in every instance he has failed to suppress and control the old nature by such man-made methods.

Now in the believer there are two natures, the old and the new. These are contrary, the one against the other. They are entirely opposite in every way. Neither one can be changed. There is no way of changing the flesh to spirit, nor is there any way to change the spirit to flesh. That which is born of the flesh^{and} that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

The food that nourishes these two natures is opposite. What will feed the one will starve the other. And this is the key to the whole problem. Feed the new nature and let the old become weak thru starvation. It is that simple!

What is the food of the new nature? It is the bread that cometh down from heaven, the Word of God. Directions: Take large portions daily mixed with prayer and digested by meditation.

-THE 11th COMMANDMENT-

On one occasion our Lord summed up the whole law in two heads, the love of God and the love of the neighbor, (See Mark 12:30,31). But in John 13:34,35 He gives the disciples a new commandment. Tho it is added to the 10 commandments, yet we can readily see that it also comes out of them.

Seeing that the 10 commandments had been given long before and had been in force for centuries, we may wonder why that this new commandment should be given now.

The 10 commandments were the terms of the old covenant to Israel. When the covenant was broken, then it became law because of the transgression. But we must ever remember that this covenant and law was with and for Israel. It was never for us Gentiles. We were and still are strangers from the covenants of promise.

The gospel of John was written after HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT, after Acts 28:28 where the doors of the kingdom were closed to both Jew and Gentile alike. It is with that in view and also the fact that there were other sheep that this new commandment was given.

John did not write these words for the dispensation of the Mystery. He had no part in that household nor did he preach concerning it. But John did have a message for those living during the time of the dispensation of the Mystery, but who were not a part of it. He had a message concerning everlasting life for those who could not belong to the kingdom household and who did not belong to the dispensation of the Mystery. This gospel of everlasting life is a basic gospel. One must first have everlasting life before he can be a member of any special household. This the disciples should know. It is TRUTH FOR TODAY.

The obedience of this commandment is a token to the world that they are His. Such love is impossible among those who are not His. If they are His, then they will love the Father also.

-THE LORD'S SUPPER IN 1 COR.-

At the beginning the letter is addressed to THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH. From the record in Acts 18 we learn that the church at Corinth began in the Synagogue of the Jews, but when some opposed themselves, Paul left the Synagogue and held his meetings in the house of Justus, preaching to the Gentiles from that time on. We learn that among other Jews who were in that church was Crispus, the chief ruler in the Synagogue.

This arrangement of Jews and Gentiles in the Acts church is explained in Rom. 11 by the picture of the olive tree with the grafted in wild olive branch. In 1 Cor. 1:24 Paul is speaking of both Jews and Greeks. Later, in 3:1, they are called CARNAL.

In 5:7 the Passover is mentioned and in the next verse Paul says, LET US KEEP THE FEAST... Since only the Circumcised could ever keep the feast (Ex. 12:48) Paul must have been speaking to Jews here in this place.

We have something more definite in chapter 10. It is written to those whose fathers had passed thru the sea. That of course would be Jews. The fathers of the Gentiles did not pass thru that sea. In 10:16 is mentioned the CUP OF BLESSING which is one of the 4 cups in use at the Passover. In chapter 11 are more instructions for keeping the feast or Lord's Supper. This is especially in 11:23-30. It may be that the rest of the chapter is concerning a pot-luck meal which they would eat together since some would come from a distance.

But in 12:2 Paul begins to talk to GENTILES, and the subject is spiritual gifts. It ends with the mention of a better way which is expounded in chapter 13.

So whatever Paul had received from the Lord concerning the keeping of the Lord's Supper was only for those whose fathers had crossed the sea. The law still was in force and we have no reason to believe that Gentiles ever partook of the Lord's Supper during Acts times.

-PRACTICE #1-

In Eph. 4:1 we find the word BESEECH. This is not a command. We are not under law. It is an exhortation. Since we are under grace, we should be ready and willing to do God's will without any command.

This word BESEECH introduces a practical section of Eph., chapters 4, 5 & 6. These practical teachings are 21 in number and perfectly balance the doctrinal teachings of the first 3 chapters.

The popular conception of PRACTICE is morality. But a glance at these chapters will show us that there is something deeper and more far-reaching than the word MORALITY. If the practice here taught is an experience of life, the morality will naturally follow.

The FIRST item in practice is to WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING. This walk is two-fold. It is a walk before God and it is a walk before men. It is in view of principalities and powers in heavenly places. Walk deals with attitude as well as behavior. One in such a calling will abstain from all appearance of evil lest shame should come to the NAME that is above every name.

The SECOND item is FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. In the doctrinal section we find that we are to be rooted and grounded in love, (3:17). Love is just as essential today as it was back when 1 Cor. 13 was written. If the tree is not rooted and grounded well, there can be no fruit. If the fact of our being members of His body is really realized, how can we fail to love one another?

The THIRD item is ENDEAVORING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT. This requires one to be at peace with all men. That peace is a strong bond which unites the members in the structure of 2:20-22. That PEACE is a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, (2:14). He also made peace, (2:15). He preached peace, (2:17). Later we find that we should put on the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace, (6:15). These shoes will lead our feet in paths of peace and good will among men.

-PRACTICE #2-

In any building or construction operation which we may wish to do, we must have a measure of some kind to work with. Now in the section, Eph. 4:7-19, we have 3 measures set out. They have to do with our practice, the outworking of the doctrines set before us in Eph. 1-3. We need to meditate on these.

1. The first MEASURE is THE GIFT OF CHRIST. It is the measure of the grace, (undeserved favor), that has been given to each of us. How often we have heard the words, "I can't" when folks have been asked to do some little service. We, in the flesh, cannot do what is pleasing in His sight, but by His grace (the gift) we can do all things. But the one who takes up the ministry as a PROFESSION and does all things in his own strength will end in failure. Our stewardship consists in PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, WORK OF THE MINISTRY, AND EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

2. The second MEASURE is the FULLNESS OF CHRIST. In the church which is His body there is no room for babes and their milk bottles. One is expected to be grown up. He is expected to be nearing perfection, the measure of which is the stature of the fulness of Christ. There are three things that lead up to this point. There must be unity of faith. There must be knowledge (full knowledge) of the Son of God. And there must be the growing up to a perfect man. Perfection comes by obedience. We must know the will of the Father and perform it.

3. The third MEASURE is THE MEASURE OF EVERY PART. This has to do with responsibility. No longer can we be irresponsible children. Each has a part in strengthening the body by working out his own task. This makes for growth of the whole, so taking part in the temple in which God by the Spirit may dwell. Notice the mixture of the figure BODY and TEMPLE. The only temple that can grow is one that is made of living stones. This section ends with the word WALK, 4:17.

-ORGANIZATION-

In the flesh, it seems that men always have to think of an organization when there is anything to be done. Often the organization is more of a hindrance than a help.

During the first missionary journeys, it was the custom to preach the Word first in the Synagogues. If it were rejected there, then the apostles went to private homes and established churches. I know not whether this would be a good example for today, but it does seem so for many reasons.

When Paul went to Corinth, he first preached in the Synagogue. The reception was too cool, so he moved his class next door to the house of Justus.

Paul speaks on two occasions of the church in the house of Aquila and Priscilla, Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19.

After Acts 28:28 we find the church of Laodicea meeting in the house of Nymphus, (Col. 4:15). Also there was a church in the house of Philemon, (Phile. 2).

So out of 4 churches that were in houses, 2 were before Acts 28:28, and 2 were after that time.

One great advantage of having a church in the home is that there can be little interference by the state. The state contributes to churches who own property by exempting it from taxes. A contributor usually has some right in dictating policies that are to be followed.

Better teaching can be done in smaller classes. There is an opportunity for better acquaintance and love. There is less danger of strife and divisions since there would be no high offices to be coveted.

Too often, those who have been delivered from bondage seek, in the flesh, to return to it. There is the hankering after the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and garlick.

If you know anything of TRUTH FOR TODAY, invite in a neighbor or some friends, and teach them. It may be that you will have to just read an article and discuss it at the first, but as you gain in practice, you will learn to teach.

-THE MILLENNIUM-

A Millennium is a thousand years. The Millennium is that period of time during which Satan will be bound so as not to deceive the nations. It is when the Lord will sit on the throne of His father David and rule the nations with a rod of iron (Psa. 2) and associated with Him will be the overcomers from the Great Tribulation which immediately precedes the Millennium (Rev. 2:26, 27). Since the Deceiver will not be active, men will be judged swiftly. There will be no delays. What they do will be the result of their terrible inheritance from Adam. The sins of the flesh cataloged in Rom. 1 are not the result of deception, but are the works of the flesh. It is evident that there will be widespread rebellion (Psa. 2).

The Millennium is a time of great spiritual revival in Israel, (not the church as taught by tradition). It will end in a great revolt and world-wide rebellion which will result in a possibly greater loss of human life than the flood. Satan will then be released for a little season. He will deceive the nations. He will gather them together to battle. He will mobilize vast armies, to assemble them before Jerusalem, and to lay siege. This may extend over a period of 2½ months. It will be the last rebellion of Satan and will as never before endanger the kingdom of the Messiah.

Because of the iron rod, the rebellion will go underground and many will worship with feigned obedience (See margin in Psa. 18:44 66:3; and 81:15). Any peace at that time between nations will be because of power, not grace. Order will be kept because of repeated and severe judgments throught the 1,000 years (See Isa. 66:23,24). The final revolt will prove that the submission of the nations will for the most part be only superficial. It will prove that man will fail even in a good environment. Man will not be able to blame Satan then for his carnal lusts, murders, and fornications.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #5.

1. Is John 3:13 a continuation of the Lord's words to Nicodemus?
2. Where is Christ at the time of the writing of this gospel?
3. In verse 14, how is the Son of man to be lifted up? Does this refer to Calvary, or to His glory? Remember that this is written many years after Christ's death and resurrection.
4. Verse 15 divides mankind into what 2 classes?
5. In verse 16, what 2 things did God do?
6. In your opinion, should anything be added to BELIEVE in order to have everlasting life?
7. Was it time yet for the world to be judged? Verse 17.
8. Does verse 18 have any relation to Rom. 8:1?
9. Upon what basis are the unbelievers condemned? Verse 19.
10. Why do such great multitudes of people lead a night life?
11. Why do evil doers hate the light?
12. Why do those who have truth welcome the light?
13. Now, whose are the words that are recorded here in 3:13-21, Christ's or John's?
14. How do you reconcile John 3:22 and 4:2?
15. In verse 23 MUCH WATER means MANY SPRINGS. Is it likely that immersion was the mode used?
16. Were men able to make John jealous of the work of the Lord?
17. What position does John take in relation to the bride and the Bridegroom?
18. Again, who is speaking in verses 31-36?
19. When the Lord emptied Himself according to Phil 2:7, did He limit himself of anything besides His glory? Verse 34.
20. What happens to anyone who does not believe the Son's testimony concerning the Father?
21. How many times does believe in its various forms occur in John 3?
22. Does this chapter teach that a man is born again when he believes or after he believes?

Dear Young Folks; The following have joined the BML; Mrs. Eleanor Baer of Hobart, Ind., W. B. Bailey of Griffith, Ind., Mrs. Virginia Hardesty of Hobart, Ind., Mr. Geo. Bonser of Meadowvale, Ont., and Mrs. Geo. Bonser of Meadowvale, Ont. Am glad to welcome these folks into our group, but only wish that hundreds more of you would take advantage of this opportunity of Bible study. I am sure it is helpful.

You may join the BML (Berean Missionary League) at any time. Just write out a set of answers to the questions on John and send them to me. I will check them and send you your membership pin. Do it now.

I may have to send cards to some who are getting behind with their lessons. They may have to stay in after school!

Do not think it strange if your environment seems to be against you. It is not unusual if you have temptations to follow the crowd and to enter into their filthy conversation and deeds. These are a test and they show you up for what you really are. God can then tell whether you really mean business when you profess to love and serve Him. These trials show to God and the world what kind of stuff you are made of. How are you standing the test?

Remember the little lad Joseph. He was sold into slavery in a strange land when he was only 17. All were idolaters. There was not a person of like belief in all the land of Egypt. Yet he stood true and firm in the faith. He did not yield to temptation. Later, he was able to save millions from starvation, including his own family. Read that story again and think on it. What would you have done?

Have enjoyed the letters from the boys in service. Would like more of them.

Good news! I can send the BML pins to foreign countries. So get busy you young folks and send in your answers and join the BML.

If in driving distance, drop in some day. Glad to have you.

--Yours in HIS love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

I may be able to give you some definite news next month about the AM radio programs.

Sorry. I apologize. Last month I forgot to mention that we had visitors at our Bible class Aug. 21. Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich Hustedt of Bourbonais, Ill., and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Haugen of Terre Haute, Ind. dropped in and surprised us.

On Sept. 7, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rickey of Toledo, O., stopped off for a little visit. At one time Mrs. Rickey (Trudy) was my secretary when I had music studios.

Mr. & Mrs. Milo Stump of Hobart, Ind. stop here once in a while. Mr. Stump is doing a fine job of Bible teaching at Hobart.

Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Mulack of Springfield, Mo., were with us Oct. 1 to 4. Both are Bible teachers and hold several classes each week. We had wonderful fellowship around the Word while they were here. They visited the radio studios during the broadcast and the class here on the 2nd.

Elroy Robinson of Jewett, Ill. along with his father who lives in Calif., stayed overnight with us Oct. 11.

Can furnish you with sample copies of TRUTH FOR TODAY with postal return cards if you wish to introduce the paper to your friends. Let me know how many you can use.

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