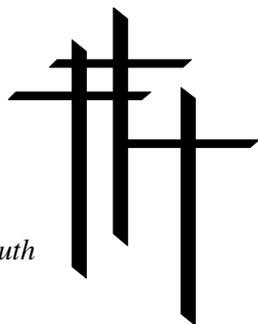


Timely Messenger



*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Speaking the Truth in Love*

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WALK BY THE SAME RULE

By Gregg Bing

“Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.” (Phil. 3:15-16)

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, admonishes us, as believers in Christ, to “walk by the same rule.” The word “rule” is translated from the Greek word “kanon.” The English word “canon” is typically associated with the canon of Scripture, meaning the books recognized and accepted as being inspired by God. The Greek word “kanon” refers to a straight reed

or rod to which something was fastened to keep it straight or aligned. The word came to mean a measuring rod. Hence, the basic meaning of “kanon” is a rule or standard for measurement or judgment. Paul uses the word here as a standard for measuring the believer’s walk.

The word “walk” is not the typical Greek word used in the New Testament of a person’s walk. The word most often used is the Greek word “peripateo” which literally means “to walk about” and simply has reference to our daily conduct. Here in Philippians 3:16 Paul uses the Greek word “stoicheo” which means to walk orderly, to march in military rank, or to keep in step, thus to walk according to some order or rule. What is this rule or order for our walk as believers?

Paul clearly associates the “rule” for our walk with the word “mind.” Those who are

spiritually “mature” believers are told to “have this mind” (vs. 15), and he relates walking by “the same rule” with being of “the same mind” (vs. 16). The word “mind” is actually a Greek verb “phroneo” which means to exercise the mind, to think, to understand in a certain way; to be disposed in a certain direction, thus to be of a certain sentiment or opinion.

One of the primary themes of the book of Philippians is the believer’s mind or mindset. This is particularly evident in the second chapter where Paul instructs the brethren at Philippi to be “likeminded,” to be “of one mind” (Phil. 2:2). Paul tells them, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). Paul identifies two elements of Christ’s mindset we are to follow: 1) He humbled Himself and 2) He became obedient to the will of the Father. We find more specifics about the type of “mind” we are to exhibit in chapter 3.

Our passage, Philippians 3:15-16, begins with the word “therefore,” which forces us to look back to the preceding context to understand Paul’s admonition. Chapter three begins with Paul warning the Philippians about false teachers, specifically the Judaizers, who placed

their confidence in the flesh rather than walking by faith (vs. 1-3). Paul reminds them of his own past life in unbelief, a time when he felt absolutely confident in and even boasted of his fleshly accomplishments: his Jewish lineage, his circumcision, his education, his zeal for God in persecuting the church, and, to cap it all off, the righteousness which he felt he had established by his adherence to the Mosaic Law (vs. 4-6).

Paul begins verse 7 with the word “but” from the Greek word “alla,” a word which indicates strong contrast. “But, what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ” (vs. 7). The things that Paul once felt were great gain to him, the things he boasted of and placed his confidence in, he now counted as loss for Christ. Paul continues, “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (vs. 8). When Paul came to know the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, his mindset changed drastically. He now counted (esteemed) all the things of the flesh loss for the one thing that excels every-

thing: “the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.” Paul not only “counted” these things loss, he “suffered” the loss of all things. When Paul acknowledged Jesus of Nazareth (whom he once persecuted) as Lord and Christ, he lost his position, his reputation, and his favor among the Jewish rulers and among the majority of the Jews. He was willing to suffer this loss because he realized that the things which he once highly valued, were nothing but “rubbish” (KJV uses the word “dung”) or worthless. Paul’s mind, heart, and desire was now set on one thing: “that I may gain Christ.”

What does it mean to “gain Christ?” Paul elaborates in verse 9-14.

Position—To gain Christ begins with our position, spiritually: “to be found in Him” (vs. 9). We are born into this world “in Adam” where we are spiritually “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1-3). When we trust in Christ as Savior, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ. God now sees us “holy and without blame,” not because of any goodness in us or good works on our part (the works of the flesh), but simply because of our position in His Son (Eph. 1:4).

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Gregg Bing — Editor

Sent **free** to anyone upon request. If you live in the Fort Worth area, we invite you to worship with us.

Sunday Services:

10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Morning Worship
6:00 PM	Evening Worship

Mid-Week Services:

Tues. 10:00 AM	Ladies Class
Wed. 7:00 PM	Bible Study

ADDRESS CHANGED?

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*Thanks for your help
in this matter!*

(Continued from page 3)

Personal Knowledge—To gain Christ continues as we personally experience Him living in and through us: “that I may know Him” (vs. 10). The word “know” means to get to know through personal experience. Paul wanted to experience Christ in three areas: 1) “the power of His resurrection” (walking in newness of life by the power of the resurrected Christ living in us—Gal. 2:20). 2) “the fellowship of His sufferings” (suffering for the name and cause of Christ, who is our life, knowing that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution—2 Tim. 3:12). 3) “being conformed to His death” (recognizing that we have been crucified with Christ to the things of the world, that our old sin nature, the flesh, is to be reckoned as dead, powerless—Rom. 6:11-13).

Purpose—To gain Christ centers on fulfilling His purpose for our lives: “that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me” (vs. 12). The words “lay hold” mean to lay hold on, to seize, to take possession of. Christ “laid hold” of us and saved us by His grace for a reason. He desires to use us in His

service and for His glory. Paul desired to “lay hold” of Christ’s purpose for His life and see this purpose realized in his daily life. This should be the mindset of every believer.

Pursuit—To gain Christ requires us to pursue one thing—Him: “to press on ... forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the mark ...” (vs. 12-14). The word “press” in verses 12 and 14 is translated from the Greek word “dioko” which means to pursue or to follow hard after. This same Greek word is also translated “persecute.” All the zeal, time, and energy Paul once expended in persecuting Christ and the church, he now redirected in pursuing the excellence of knowing and serving Christ.

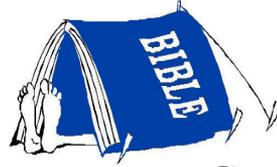
Prize—To gain Christ means that we keep our eyes focused on the ultimate goal: “to press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (vs. 14). As he lived and served the Lord, Paul was continually “looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Tit. 2:13). Paul looked forward to Christ’s coming for His Church with great expectation, knowing he

would stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be rewarded for his service (2 Cor. 5:10). Having a mindset that values eternal things more than our temporary time here on earth has a powerful impact on our daily walk for the Lord.

“Therefore,” Paul says, “let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind” (vs. 15-16). “This mind” is characterized by the things Paul describes in verses 7-14, things that are present in the mindset of a mature believer, things that enable a believer to grow into spiritual maturity. We are to exercise our minds in this direction, regardless of the level of our spiritual maturity. We are instructed to walk (order our steps) by this same rule, to think, reason, and purpose with this same mind. In brief, to growing, mature believers, Christ is our life (Col. 3:4); He is our “all in all.” Paul expressed the essence of this mindset in chapter 1: “To me, to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21).

(To be continued next issue.)

FAMILY



CAMP

June 27 - July 1

Theme: *That I May Know Him*

We invite you to join us for our Family Bible Camp to be held at Camp Arrowhead between Cleburne and Glen Rose, Texas. We have separate Bible classes and recreational activities for all age groups.

For more information about the camp and to print registration forms, check out this page on our website:

www.gbcbw.com/ministries/camp

Or, if you do not have internet access, write to us or call us and we will be glad to mail you registration information and forms.

Mail registration forms to:

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Deadline: June 19, 2011

FAQ's of Life

by Lori Gardner

On almost every website on the internet there is a place for FAQ's or Frequently Asked Questions. Usually, we find that they are fairly short, succinct answers that enable us to get the information we need without spending too much time browsing the rest of the website. Many people seem to turn to their TVs or local book stores to do the same type of thing when it comes to finding answers to questions about the meaning of their lives.

There are several popular TV shows where people voluntarily sit and talk about their problems in front of the world. Psychologists and talk show hosts dispense their new age philosophies in between commercial breaks and everyone feels a little better about themselves by the end of the program. There are also many bookstores full of self help books that are marketed to people seeking answers about themselves. It seems the main question everyone wants answered is, "Who am I?" or more accurately, "What is my place in this world?" and "Do I have any value?"

These are questions that we all need to have answered or we may end up like the men described in 2 Tim. 3:1-9, "*Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" The problem with most talk shows and self help books is that they never really answer these questions. It is because most of the world is not willing to seek answers from the one source that can always help them: God's Word.

We Are a New Creation

In order to answer these questions about ourselves we have to go back to the very beginning. God created man in His own image which means He gave us the ability to think, reason, and make choices. Unfortunately, we do not always make choices that are pleasing to Him. Each of us is born with a sinful, selfish nature that we inherited from the first man, Adam (Rom. 5:19). The Bible calls this our "old nature" or "the flesh."

"So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom. 8:8)

Have you ever wanted something so much you felt you

would do anything for it? That's the flesh. Have you ever wanted to be involved in something sinful just because everyone else seemed to be? Most parents are very familiar with their children saying, "But, everyone else is doing it!" That's the flesh. The world we live in is full of things that look, taste, sound, and feel good that are simply not good for us. That's because sin appeals to our flesh.

Thankfully, God gave us a way to have victory over the flesh. He sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Once we place our trust in what He did for us, He gives us a "new nature." Sometimes we call this "*the spirit*" because it is His Holy Spirit that comes to indwell us. When this happens, we go from being a fleshly, spiritually dead human to being a beautiful, brand new creation.

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation); old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17)

We Are "in Christ"

When we are born, God sees us as being "*in Adam*" be-

cause we have inherited Adam's nature. Once we trust Christ as our Savior, God takes us out of Adam and places us "*in Christ*". So, how does God see someone that is "*in Christ*?" We are holy and righteous in His eyes because He's not looking at our old sinful flesh. He looks at us and sees His Son.

"There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom. 8:1)

When He sees us "*in Christ*" He sees that we have died to sin. The power that the old fleshly nature had over us was crucified on the cross. Now, we have been made alive, and are risen with Him (Rom. 6:11; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:11). In Christ, we are accepted by God, and kept safe from the wrath and judgment of sin. We have redemption, forgiveness, and we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies (Eph. 1:3, 7). We have been made citizens of heaven along with the saints in the household of God (Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20). This also gives us access to God at any time, day or night (1 Tim. 2:5). That means we are never with-

out Him.

Whenever we are in the midst of difficult times or simply having a bad day, it helps to remember that we are “in Him.” We are always in a place where we are secure and loved.

We Are Part of a New Creation

When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are not only made new creatures in Him, but we also become part of a new creation called the Body of Christ. This was a mystery that was kept secret in God until He revealed it to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-9). It was an entirely new program that the Lord created for believers of this dispensation.

Throughout the Scriptures, God had always dealt with His special people, the nation of Israel. However, the nation as a whole rejected their Messiah. All of the other nations, the Gentiles, had turned away from God long before and went on to live wicked lives. The Bible says that the Gentiles were strangers and aliens and had no hope (Eph. 1:12).

In this present dispensation of God’s grace, it doesn’t matter whether we are a Jew or a Gentile. Every man, woman or child

that trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior becomes a member of the Church, which is Christ’s Body. It is a living organism made up of all believers with Christ as the Head over all. We are baptized into the Church by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual baptism that is done without hands. There are no special rituals required and we don’t feel anything strange, but it can give us an inward peace and joy that can only come from knowing that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16).

Once we become members of this new creation, it is our job to be ambassadors or representatives for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). We are to be active in sharing the gospel of grace so others may believe and become members as well.

When we become members of His Body, we also become members of each other. In the Church, if one person suffers, we all suffer, and if one member receives honor, we all rejoice (1 Cor. 12:26). The whole Body suffers when one member is disobedient to the Head (Christ). Each one of us is very precious and important to the Lord.

So, who are you? Do you have any value? What is your place in this world? God’s

Word is where we find the meaningful, life changing answers to these frequently asked questions of life.

Who hath saved
 us, and called
 us with an holy
 calling, not
 according to
 our works, but
 according to His
 own purpose and
 grace, which was
 given us in Christ
 Jesus before the
 world began.
 2 Timothy 1:9

NEW WEBSITE!

Coming Sunday

Eternal Purpose of God - 13 (The Law)
 Text: Exodus 13-14
 Speaker: Pastor Greg Pitt

We look at the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai to the children of Israel, a covenant God used as a "schoolmaster" to bring that nation to Christ.

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Visiting Grace Bible
 - Learn about our church

Winter Youth Retreat
 - Dec. 20 - Jan. 1

How to be Saved
 - What God's Word teaches

Latest Timely Messenger
 - Sep-Oct 2010

A Place Where You Can Grow in the Lord

Services that Exalt Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Location
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 We are located in east Fort Worth at the corner of Broadwood Drive and Oak Hill.

Services

Day	Time
Sunday	10:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM
Ladies Class	10:00 AM
Wednesday	7:00 PM
Bible Study	7:00 PM

Click here for Map

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Grace Bible Church has a new website! The site has an improved design that is easier to maintain and keep current. We invite you to visit us at:

www.gbcbfw.com

- Miss a sermon? You can listen to it online.
- Get information about coming church events.
- Print registration forms for camps / retreats.
- View photos from church activities.
- Read issues of the *Timely Messenger* online.
- Read our books and tracts online.
- Test your knowledge by taking our Bible quizzes.
- Find helpful links to internet resources.

God is Love

By Dennis Blankenship

Before the world was conceived to be,
God had a plan for you and me,
It was born in love with wisdom's part
But ripped at the seams of the Father's heart.

For His Son He'd need to send away
For us to see a future day,
Christ was the key to life for man,
And was the wisdom of God's plan.

From the Father to a dying earth,
If man was going to have rebirth,
The Father must anguish, the Son must die,
If man's to live with God on high.

Why, why would God hurt Himself so
And have His Son stoop so low,
To lose the presence of the Beloved Son
Was the saddest day since time had begun.

The truth is stated in God's Word,
"God is love" is the message heard,
He gave His life on Calvary,
And proved His love eternally.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." —John 3:16

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS



The following Bible study materials are available free of charge for your personal use or for use in teaching a Bible class.

by Charles Wages

- Written for Our Learning
- Stepping Stones to Truth
- Past Pentecost to Paul
- Points to Ponder
- The Ages
- Saved by Grace
- Ministry of the Church
- The Perfect Will of God
- Once in a Lifetime
- Fellowship in Christ
- Hidden in God
- Thoughts on Vision
- Spiritual Fitness
- What Saith the Scripture
(Set of 6 Diff. Tracts)

by Mrs. Charles Wages

- Seasons
- Spiritual Thoughts for Young Minds
- A Man Named Paul
- Studies for Women

by R.B. Shiflet

- Informal Study: Philippians
- Informal Study: Ephesians
- Personal Meditations on Paul's Post-Acts Ministry
- Giving Under Grace
- Ultradispensationalism
- The Lord's Supper

by Ike T. Sidebottom

- The Book of Acts
- Through the Bible Dispensationally
- Prophetic Gleanings
- Saved, Settled and Sure
- Fellowship of the Mystery

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- Keys to the Word : Understanding the Bible
- Unless the Lord Builds the House
- A Good Conscience
- That I May Know Him
- Making Good Choices
- For God So Loved the World
- It is Finished!
- Conformed to the Image of His Son
- The End of the World
- Assurance : Can We Know that We are Saved?

by John D. LaVier

- Yokefellows : Paul and His Companions
- Sure Words of Prophecy
- The Lord has Spoken
- Why is Heaven Silent?

Study to shew
thyself approved
unto God, a workman
that needeth not to
be ashamed, rightly
dividing the Word
of truth.

—**2 Timothy 2:15**