

the INFORMER newsletter



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THE SECRET OF WINNING

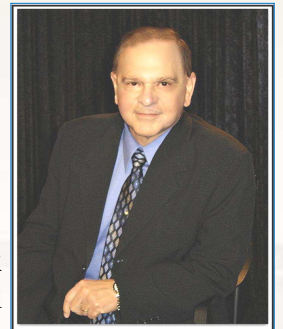
By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President and General Overseer

As we study the Word of God and do the work of the Kingdom, it is important to feel a sense of accomplishment and understanding. The Holy Spirit will help us; however, we must apply ourselves and be faithful if we are to reach the goal and complete our mission. Paul writes, "Run in such a way that you may win." The Isthmian Games, to which Paul referred, were open to everyone. Of course the object of running the race was to win! We all know it is not just a matter of putting on the right shoes or outfit and enjoying the scenery; it is preparation and perseverance that makes a winner.

So, what is the secret of winning? First of all, everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things (I Co 9:25). Athletes, who run to win, exercise restraint of their emotions and desires. Second, they watch their diet, get plenty of rest and train their bodies in a certain way. Paul says those who ran in the Isthmian Games did so to win "a perishable wreath." Actually, the victors were treated like royalty. Many times their debts were cancelled

and they were allowed to live tax free the rest of their lives, as well as many more benefits.

Paul goes on to point out, as valuable as the leafy crown was, it can't compare to the eternal rewards that await those who are in Christ. So we must run our race with eternity in view, remember we are on the winning side! When we reach the end of our race there is a crown laid up for us. This crown will never perish! ♥♥♥



A New Wineskin Involves S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G



By Pastor Lynn Burling / Christian Faith Church/TX

(Luke 5:33-38 NKJV) *Then they said to Him, “Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?”* ³⁴*And He said to them, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?”* ³⁵*But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.”* ³⁶*Then He spoke a parable to them: “No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old.”* ³⁷*And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.* ³⁸*But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”*

We are in an unprecedented time of biblical proportions in the world as we know it. It's palpable! PALPABLE: (of a feeling or atmosphere) so intense as to seem almost tangible. If you are a true

follower of Jesus, you would have to be deaf, dumb or blind not to know change has taken place. Some call it a shift (there have been many) while others refer to it as New-Now revelation. The sons of Issachar, (those who discern the times and seasons) have become more prominent with their voices, telling us, urging us to be ready. This is requiring something new from God's people, His true sons and daughters. Jesus clashed with the culture of His day and so are we. I believe the story of the New wine (GR: NEOS) and New (Kainos) wineskin are as much as a challenge today as Jesus' words were a rebuttal to the Pharisees. Wine is wine—but new wine means; *something that's never been before...EVER!* The Greek word for New as to wine was different as to New to wineskins! Just to be clear the word new for wineskins “Kainos” meant to “repurpose or re-new, it means: new in quality-fresh in new opportunity also“ not found to be like this before”. We all want to be used but many today must be renewed or repurposed to know the “capacity for the New!” (Have the new ability to stretch). Why...the old mindsets, paradigms and methodology cannot contain the new that the Lord has prepared for these days. The good news is new wine can come in two geographical growing seasons in Israel. If we camp out and get too enamored with the truth that God is releasing for the NOW, we will miss the next

season of “*what has never been before,*” when He's ready to update us.

Let us examine the wineskin. You and I are the containers. We have this treasure committed to us. The old model will not work with the new wine. Case in point: Jesus was with Philip when the 5,000 needed feeding. Jesus asked him, “*What would you do Philip?*” - well 200 silver coins are not enough to feed 5,000 men (plus women and children). Something was about to change Philip's mindset FOREVER! Something that had never happened before happened...5 loaves and a few fish multiplied. Philip did not have the capacity to think beyond his natural eyes. Jesus provided a new way of thinking and seeing. I'll guarantee you Philip from that moment on was thinking and acting out of the box. Jesus caused him to *Stretch* himself to include the New possibilities and New found abilities. The old wineskin represents old outward things, such as old law, (Pharisaical fasting twice a week)...whereas the new wine represents the enablement to overcome all outward things based on a summary of new information. VOILA! This explains Philip and us, we can never be the same again. We must *choose* to let go of the old and we must *choose* to allow the new! To repurpose an old wineskin for new use was to soak it in water for a while then rub it with oil until supple, which

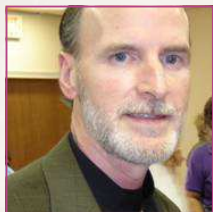


enabled it to stretch to contain the new crop of grapes.

I've seen God's new revelation hit people between the eyes, but because they were not ready or prepared or REPURPOSED, it could not stay or remain in them. The Old Testament law was inflexible and outdated. It could not contain the new faith of Christianity. Old wineskins are fixed and can't or won't expand to ADAPT beyond its ability to yield to the new wine. As far as the new cloth on an old tear was, they were trying to patch the law with grace—you cannot co-mingle the two. The old came through Mosaic covenant but the new comes by grace, through Jesus Christ and the apostolic teachings. One is bolted on as an outward attainment while the other is embedded. **When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change!** This is a transformation not an evolutionary process. *We must learn a new way to think before we can change a new way to be! Jesus' message was a new revelation to them. He wanted the Jews to know He did not come to preach a new and improved Judaism or to re-upholster a worn out religion. He came to bring something completely different.*

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Will We Turn to God for Help or Rely on our Strength



By Rev. Mike Taylor (Religion Columnist)

We see many people today moved only by what they think or feel. They are full of emotions of which many are negative. This is to be human, yet the Bible teaches us that we are not to be led by our human emotions but by the Holy Spirit of God. We are not to ignore the human side of things, but we have to understand that we are spiritual beings having a human experience not human beings having a spiritual experience. God gave us a body, soul and spirit. We are to guard all three yet be led by the spirit.

The things of God often are mysterious. God in fact is mysterious. His ways are not our ways. His ways are far above our ways. That's why it is critical to read and study the Bible and find out for

ourselves what the word of God has to say on every subject.

Knowledge alone is not enough. In fact, the Bible says that too much knowledge puffs up. We all know people who are very smart, may have many college diplomas yet they lack common sense. What we really need is Godly wisdom. Chapter 4 verse 7 of the book of Proverbs says that "wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

The reason it's so important that we get understanding is that God is dealing with the nations of the world. It is harvest time and God is separating the goat nations from the sheep nations. In other words, He is looking down upon the nations and peoples of the world and seeing who is for Him and

who is against Him. Who is going to live by His standards and His ways and means. Or will people refuse and continue to do things their own way and in their strength. Sheep are easily led, goats rebel.

All areas of life now are being tested. We see it in media, Hollywood, government, universities, sports, etc. God is not fair, He is just. He judges by His righteous standards which is the word of God. We will never be able to fully understand all of God's ways. However, if we are to have any real chance and meaningful purpose in this life we must spend more time with God and read and study His word the Bible.

All through human history God has had a remnant. A small group of people who have been prepared and are

Proverbs 4:7 (KJV)

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

called for such a time as this. A people who will comfort others as God has comforted them through the years. This remnant will love God and love people. They see their mission in life as serving others with little or no gain for themselves. Serving strictly out of a desire to please their Lord and to do God's will on earth.

The question now is, "Can God count on you and me to be used for His glory? Will we study and prepare and be a part of His end time remnant? Will our legacy be they loved God and they loved people?"

(Published with permission from the author)

A New Wineskin Involves Stretching continued from page 2

He said, "It has been said...**but now I say!** Its meaning—"been said" was the old path, but now—"I say", *is the new truth!* I want to add that when the new comes poured into the new wineskin, it will displace unneeded things—it fills every void and challenges everything that doesn't belong. Jesus was telling Nicodemus, "hey friend you're a major teacher here and you have no clue pertaining to spiritual matters. The law kills but the spirit makes "alive" - new again...born again." Just so you can understand the new wineskin means re-purposed, look at 2 Cor. 5:17 (Same word Kainos in all of these.) New creature. (2 Cor. 4:16) Though our outward man perishes our inward man is (Kainos) "RENEWED...same man made over. Get ready for this one, Eph. 4:33 "*And be renewed, in the spirit in your mind*" (your way of thinking)...the way you look at things and put on the new man the renewed man). Listen to the

Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:12 Mess., "*Because the stakes are so high, even though you're UP-TO-DATE on all this truth and practice it inside and out, I'm not going to let up for one minute in calling your attention to it.*" In the NIV it states "*In the truth you now have*"...I submit that Peter was sharing the most up to date revelation he knew that had been revealed to him for his time and his season, but I'm not where I used to be 5, 10, 25 years ago in his knowledge, wisdom and understanding. God is revealing to us knowledge that Daniel 12:4 said must be locked down until the times of the end...information not yet known or revealed but knowledge shall be increased. I believe this is that time and season, true with human knowledge but also knowledge coming from the Most High revealed to those prepared to receive the New wine and to stretch! ♥♥♥

What Can You Say America?

You cannot listen to the news today without immediately hearing of multiple individuals currently being faced with scrutiny over inappropriate speech, whether it is blog posts, verbal statements, or even something said over social media like Twitter. Some of these people have been fired as a result; some have not. After nearly every action or inaction by their employers, a fiery debate ensues across the spectrum: should someone be fired for what they said when off the clock?

Is this a violation of their freedom of speech? And for many, the most important question becomes, could it happen to you? The answer, as with the majority of legal issues, is complicated.

First, it's important to understand that the majority of these cases do not involve any sort of free speech violation. The First Amendment of the Constitution simply sets forth that the government cannot make any law abridging the freedom of speech. Most of these employment situations do not involve laws against the speech in question. Ultimately, the individual is not being threatened with criminal prosecution in any way—they are entitled to their right to express their viewpoints, no matter what perspective they hold. Whether their employer must put up with those views, on the other hand, is a different story.

There is certainly an argument to be made that an employer should not be forced to continue associating with someone who holds reprehensible views. For instance, your ministry would surely wish to disassociate with a staff member who announced on his Facebook that he agreed with anti-Biblical

beliefs. We would definitely argue you should absolutely have every legal right to let that employee go.

However, for Christians, this “right” of employers can quickly take a more sinister turn—who decides what views are “reprehensible” or “wrong” in the secular workplace? The moral authority may be skewed by a wide range of worldly vies on multiple subjects. We have seen many Christians face strict reprimands or worse on the job for speaking out on traditional marriage values, even when they are off the clock. Not long ago, a fire chief in Georgia was fired by the city for daring to mention his support for traditional marriage in a devotional book he wrote in his spare time. In this case, a federal court ruled against the city, finding that their regulations for employees regarding off-the-clock speech were too broad to “pass constitutional muster”. However, it's important to note this particular case involved both the government as an employer and other broad rules. Your case, your state, and your situation may be entirely different. With every issue, there are new facts involved that must be taken into account.

Does your employment contact have a social media policy? If so, then it is likely you will be expected to abide by that policy during your employment, and your employer can potentially terminate you for violating it. However, we firmly believe in speaking out for the Lord in your local area. If you have questions about whether you can speak out about Biblical things in your situation, contact our office and speak with one of our attorneys at no charge to you. If you are experiencing difficulty at work because of your religious views, please contact our attorneys today. (CLA-888-252-1969).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREDENTIAL RENEWAL

Due OCTOBER 1st

TWO WAYS TO RENEW:

- 1) Complete the credential form that we mailed out to you and send it back to us.
- 2) ONLINE—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website:
www.paragonchristianalliance.org located under the “Resource” tab

Key Tax Deadline

August 10, 2018

Churches/Ministries with nonminister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) may file their employer's quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) by this date instead of July 31 if all taxes for the second calendar quarter have been deposited in full and on time.

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