



the INFORMER newsletter

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

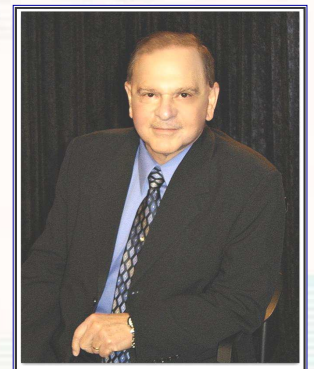
AMERICA... IS IT A CHRISTIAN NATION?



America was founded on Christian principles. However, as we can see today, it has ventured far from what our founding fathers intended. God has blessed this nation throughout the centuries for carrying the Gospel around the world; and yes, there is still a remnant standing firm in the faith. Yet untold numbers of dedicated men and women have died for the freedoms which are now being taken from us. Whatever your personal belief, I think we can all agree that America cannot continue unless it turns back to God. Join me as I endeavor to rightly divide the Word of Truth concerning this subject.

(Biblical quotes are from the Parallel King James Version and the New Millennia In-Depth Bible)

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



The following is taken from the work God has called me to call the **New Millennia In-Depth Bible** which I believe will bless the Body of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4

Living Holy to Please God

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

1 Now as to what more I want to say, brothers *and sisters*: we urge *and* exhort you [because of your union] in the Lord Jesus, that [you follow the instructions which] you received from us as to how it is necessary for you to walk [upright] and to live in such a manner that is pleasing to God—as you indeed are doing, so that you may excel [†in perfection] even more.

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

2 Now you know what commands we gave you by the [authority of the] Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: It is God's will that you should be sanctified (holy, consecrated, set apart), *and* that you should abstain *and* keep away from all [†kind of] sexual immorality;

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

4 that each of you should *know how to control his own body in holiness

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(consecration) and honor, [*NOTE: The Greek reads *know how to possess his own vessel*, while some versions read *know how to acquire his own wife*. “Wife” translates *skeuos*. Here *skeuos* may refer to either *one’s own body* or *one’s own wife* - I Pet. 3:7.]

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

5 not with a passionate lust like the Gentiles (heathen, nations), *the ones* who do not know [the True] God, (Ps. 79: 6; Jer. 10:25)

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

6 that no man [should] sin by taking advantage of his [Christian] brother in this matter [†by committing adultery with his wife]. Because the Lord is the Avenger (Ps. 94:1) in all these matters, as we have told you before, in solemn *and* plain terms.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

7 For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness (consecration).

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

8 Therefore whoever rejects *or* disregards [these instructions - vv.1-7], is not rejecting man, but God, *the One* Who has given to you His Holy Spirit. (Ezek. 36:27; 37:14)

Both Christians and Non-Christians Must be Shown Love

9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

9 Now concerning brotherly love (Gk. *philadelphia*; *fraternal love*) — you have no need that *I should write to you [about this matter]. For you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. [*NOTE: Many versions read, we should write to you rather than I should write to you, while others read, anyone should write to you. The reason why some translators use “anyone” is to eliminate controversy as to whether we or I should be used.]

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

10 In fact, you already are practicing love toward all the brothers *and sisters* throughout all Macedonia (*mass uh DOH nih uh*). But we urge *and* appeal to you brothers *and sisters* that you excel [in love toward others] even to a greater degree.

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

11 Make this your ambition: ²lead a quiet life, mind your own business (affairs), and work with your own hands, as we have instructed you,

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

12 so that your conduct may influence others who are outside[the

Church]. *Through this you will have need of nothing— (*that is, you will not be dependent on anyone to supply your financial needs*). [*NOTE: Aristocratic land-owners in Corinth despised manual laborers, so conflict occurred there concerning this matter. But in Thessalonica the aristocrats did not despise as much the manual laborers, who were among the lower-class. Though it is speculative, Paul may be referring to a Christian’s testimony outside the Church, such as someone being viewed with disdain by aristocrats, if he or she resorted to begging for money or food in the streets.]

America today shares more similarities to the pagan provinces (Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus, and others) that Paul evangelized, two to three decades after the Ascension of Christ, than it does with other Christian nations. Though America is viewed as a Christian nation throughout the world, it indeed is not. Revelry, debauchery, drunkenness and nefarious vices are so prevalent in today’s society, no one has been prudent enough to solve our country’s problems. It grows worse day-by-day just like the province of Thessalonica in which Paul won converts, but most of them continued to practice their lustful vices, which was their habit they had enjoyed as pagans.

Because of its popularity, Americans regularly watch on television, “American Idol,” but they regularly worship “American idols” such as power, wealth, sports figures, families, movie stars, etc. Rather than seeking for the “crown of *glory*” that Christ awards to over-coming saints, most Americans are seeking for the “crown of *self-glory*” which is awarded by “the world.” America is in BIG trouble because it leads the world in abortions, drug addiction, alcoholism, inferior education, divorce, adulterous acts, thievery, insurrection, rebellion against the law, crime, obesity, laziness, greed, and child births outside wedlock. To make matters worse, many of the aforementioned sins are practiced by those who claim to be Christian. Based upon my observation, these prolific sins are a sign that point to the soon coming of Christ (I Thess. 5:6).

As I try my hand at exegeting the Scriptures in I Thess. 4, I must conclude that in reference to us it means:

- V. 1 - In order to please God we must follow the instructions taught us by our Christian leaders.
- V. 2 – We may know the instructions given to us by our Christian leaders, but we may be unwilling to follow them.
- V. 3 - It is God’s will that Christians be holy (sanctified, consecrated, set apart) and abstain from all kind of sexual immorality.
- V. 4 - The body is a temple of the Holy Spirit; it must be kept holy and not become involved in unholy acts of indiscriminate sex.
- V.5 - It is to be expected that unsaved people will involve themselves in unholy acts, but the saved must not,

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- because they know and serve the True God.
- V.6 - No man should ever take advantage of another Christian man's wife, because the Lord is the Avenger and the sinner will pay the penalty for his sin.
- V.7 - Christians have not been called (or appointed) by God so they remain in sin; they must be holy [this is what God has appointed Christians to].
- V.8 - Though these hard instructions may be coming from men, a Christian who rejects them is not rejecting the instructions of men, but of God Himself, the One Who has given you His Holy Spirit. (See I Thes. 5:12 – "Obey those who are have charge over you.")
- V.9 – There is no need to be reminded that you must show "brotherly love" toward each other. Believers already know about this kind of love from God's holy Word.
- V.10 – Although your love may be far-spread in your own community and state, you must reach even further beyond these borders and show even more love to those who are living outside of your own borders.
- V.11 - Christians should lead a quiet life, stay out of other lesson is: don't involve yourself in debauched living and carousing.
- V.12 – With the kind of conduct mentioned in v.11, we as Christians may have an even greater influence outside the church among those who scoff at us and make fun of us. In the end, God will cause our influence to be so great that we will have need of nothing. Because God Himself will cause others of influence [outside the church] to support our ministries with their own finances.

We must be ready for the Day of the Lord's Return!

Christ Died so Believers May Live With Him

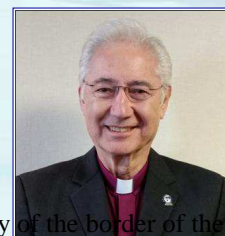
- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**
- 6 So then let us not sleep [†after a night of drunkenness and frivolity - v.7] like *many* others who have not yet died, but let us keep awake *and* be watchful (Mt. 24:42, 43) †*for the Lord's return* and let us be self-controlled [†in our passionate desires].
- 7 For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.**
- 7 For those who are sleeping sleep at night, and those who are making themselves drunk get drunk at night. (**Rom. 13:12-14**)
- 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**
- 8 But we who are [appointed] *for* the Day [of the Lord's return - v.5] must be self-controlled [†in our passionate desires], by clothing ourselves with the breastplate of faith and love, and [by covering our head with] a helmet, *which is* the hope of salvation. (**Eph. 6:10-20**)
- 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

- 9 For God has not appointed us to [receive His] wrath *and* anger, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**
- 10 *the One* Who died for us, so that whether we are alive or are dead [when Christ returns], we may live together with Him.
- 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.**
- 11 So you must encourage *and* console one another and build up one another, just as you are [already] doing.

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(King James Version in bold)

Leaving Behind Spiritual Poverty Today

By Rev. Lynn Burling/ Christian Faith Church Senior Pastor-TX



We can no longer remain on the periphery of the border of the Spiritual or remain ignorant of "Realms" beyond ours, but are yet present. We suffer from "Spiritual Poverty" because of an unwillingness to move beyond our 'Born Again Status!' Mt. 5:3, "*blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,*" this is not a financial statement—this links *poor* and *spirit*.

We must be cognizant of other *realms*. The Greek word for kingdom is **Gr: Basileia** which means *realm*. 1 Cor. 2:12 "*Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the spirit which is of God, THAT WE MAY KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD.*" (Emphasis mine) Did you see that we've already received by our faith in Christ, the Spirit of God?

Too many saints have remained in kindergarten and can't see themselves operating in another *realm*. Let me illustrate from John 6:19-22. We see the disciples rowing against a contrary wind. There were no boats for Jesus to get into so He does what He is! As He walked to them coming closer to the ship they were afraid. Listen, this demonstrates what I'm talking about, the *Realm* of the Kingdom Jesus represents is on display. No one had ever walked on water, ever in history—that was a demonstration of being in another *realm*. Remember everything Jesus is doing is educating His disciples for future knowledge and application. It's one thing to see blind eyes open, deaf ears hear, and leprosy cleansed but WALKING

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ON WATER? Now it gets better, He steps into the ship and vs. 21 says, *immediately they and the ship were at the land where they were headed!!!* WOW, I find it hard to comment on, only to say, they were introduced to the *Realm* of the Kingdom of God that would align their ministries to the Gospel forever. Another example of the *realm* we live in and the *realm* Jesus came from is also in 1 Cor. 2:14, *“The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* These can only be translated by a born again, renewed mind, from another *realm*. In John 2:18, the Jews are clamoring for a sign. In vs. 19 Jesus says *“destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”* The Jews and Jesus are standing in the temple’s shadow and (hear me), the only *realm* they understood was the physical *realm*. They pondered the fact this building took 46 years to build and you say you will raise it up in 3 days, but He spoke of the Temple of His Body. At this point, they had no concept of another *realm*.

I’ve learned over many years of ministry, people will not crucify you for what you say, they will crucify you for what “they think” you said—living under spiritual poverty will do that. We are talking about how another *realm*, which we can’t see, can bring us out of Spiritual Poverty. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the disciples copied Him and other disciples copied them and so-on. They understood because they gave themselves to *learn-yearn-and-burn* for the *knowledge, wisdom, fruit and gifts*. They were committed to believing it was for them in this *realm*—the Kingdom had come and was in them. The same power, the same Spirit from the Heavenly *Realm*. It’s a choice to believe. It’s already given and it’s available to anyone. When Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1... *“The Lord has*

anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor” - He was not speaking of the economically poor but those poor in spiritual qualities or those poor in relationship with Him. One can be spiritually poor regardless of how much money he possesses. There is a fruit of Poverty produced in natural man, but only the work of God’s Holy Spirit can reverse the poverty of Spirit in the minds of those He has called out. David, one of the wealthiest men who ever lived, referred to himself as a “poor man” in Ps. 34:6... *“in need of only what God could supply.”* It’s simply recognizing what is available and what has been provided.



We need to “cherish” the manifestation of the Heavenly *Realm* in our lives, through gifts by the Spirit. *He became poor, that you may become rich...connected to and enriched in the Heavenly Realm.* In reality if it costs you nothing, you’ll care nothing about it. The cost is *hunger, desire, passion, faith and time*, to see Heaven come to Earth in your life to influence others to see and experience manifested power flow to benefit His Kingdom purposes.

All 9 gifts and all 9 fruits are ours. These are of and by the Spirit for believers to change the *realm* we’re in to see another *realm* of the Kingdom come. Rom. 8:5 *“For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”* It’s what we set our affections on. You can be saved but with skewed affections which leads to Spiritual Poverty. There is the visible and the invisible *realms*, thrones, dominion, principalities and powers, remember all these were created by Him and for Him. Let us set our affections on what He has designed for His church to bring the saints unto perfection and get real about the *Realm* of the Spirit. ♥

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Annual Credential Renewals

DUE OCTOBER 1ST



TWO WAYS TO RENEW:

- (1) Complete the credential renewal form enclosed in this July 2020 Informer Newsletter.
- (2) ONLINE—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website: <https://paragonchristianalliance.org/renewals/>

NOTE: Review your monthly giving/contribution and bring to current if you are behind, before we can renew your credential.

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