

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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August 30, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



The Law is God's

I begin this week's article with an excerpt I have long admired from pages 90, 91 of bro. Thomas H. Olbricht's fine volume, *He Loves Forever: The Message of the Old Testament* (Austin: Journey Books, 1980):

Yahweh gives his law out of love. He reveals to man what he cannot discover on his own. Man does not force the love of God by keeping His law. God gives his gifts and his love freely. Israel is told to keep the law so she will not be cut off from the gifts which God always grants. The law does not stand apart from God. It is his. He does with it as he pleases. The law of God is not some abstract universal principle located in nature or beyond. The law is God's because he gave it. He gave it because he desires a faithful, continual, and regulated relationship with the works of his hands, especially man made in his image.

Sometimes people visualize the law of God as having a life of its own. It stands apart from both God and man for their scrutiny and interpretation. These people see God as bound by his law. Of course, God is faithful because he does with his law as he pleases and it always benefits man. Certain Israelites once came to Jerusalem to worship in the days of Hezekiah. They were from the north, and that kingdom had already fallen. They had a problem. They had not been in Jerusalem long enough to go through the regular cleansing ceremony. **Yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed** (2 Chron. 30:10). They did so, however, without impunity, for Hezekiah prayed to

Today's Sermon

a.m. "Take Time to Be Holy"

2 Timothy 2:19-21

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning message*

the LORD on their behalf. **And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people** (2 Chron. 30:20). When God desires, he can waive punishment for law-breaking. He can make decisions about his law as he goes along. Man is in no position to make those decisions for him. Man has no right to declare when God will or will not enforce his law. We have only the assignment to proclaim the ways of God. We have not been given the license to declare when God might waive the requirements.

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I end this week's article with two further quotations:

"The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son" -- Jesus the Christ, John 5:22

"Clemency belongs to the judge; it our duty to preach the law" -- Foy E. Wallace (1896-1979), prominent preacher of the churches of Christ



Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER

&

ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

Lois Cremeans (sister of Mark Cremeans, former disaster relief worker here) - very sick with a very serious infection which is often fatal: Necrotizing Myositis, a very fast moving infection that affects the muscles. A few days ago her leg was amputated up to her hip, and was scheduled for another surgery soon afterward.

Jesse Fowler - healing from a recent heart attack and subsequent surgical stent implantation.

Dwight Jones - has surgery scheduled tomorrow to remove his prostate, which is displaying some malignancy.

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Charles Espadron (Claudia's brother, in Atlanta) - diagnosed with cancer in one lung. Because of his weak heart, doctors see no treatment options.

The bereaved family of the late Sean Acer (who was a friend of Kathy Pederson's family) - he suddenly died of a brain aneurism in his Slidell home Thursday at age 38, leaving behind a wife and two children.

Ken Jones - suffering from his annual September post-traumatic stress syndrome, stemming from his near-fatal shooting and squad-car accident years ago.

Shirley Ervin - thanksgiving that she is healing well following recent neck surgery. Her pain is mostly gone, and she sees a doctor Wednesday. Pray that she will be told then that she can return to normal life.

Joshua Hankins (Cheri's grandson, in Arkansas) - healing from an infection and burst eardrum.

Stephanie Smith (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

Anna Jones (Mr. Dale's daughter) - needs back surgery that Medicaid won't pay for, and is trying to get into their Pain Management program.

Jaimie and Jessica (two of Molina's daughters) - that they would get their spiritual life together.

Scott Casey - undergoing tests to evaluate internal health issues

Jeff Vaccaro - for the healing a recent sun-burned blisters on both legs.

Elery Martin (friend of the Caseys, near Montgomery, AL) - five year old girl experiencing seizures, awaiting recent tests results.

Margaret Schillinger - for relief from recent flare-ups in her arthritis.

Zach Steele - for success and healing through the process of receiving his long-awaited bone marrow transplant.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - has some vexing problems besetting her.

Terri Jones - pray that she'll come to feel better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

Dale Epperley - awaiting a new prosthesis to that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

Gerald Molina - still seeing doctors for spinal

stenosis. The good news is that he has lost 20 lbs. recently!

Jace Roig (newborn son of Colton Roig) - is home and gaining weight. But he is still afflicted with an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Sandy Shell - bereaved of her son, who died last week at age 42. Sandy herself has cancer, and her husband had a recent heart attack.

Aubrey Rainey - three-year old girl who passed away from complications of

Maria Aurelia Alsaro (Marisol's mother, in Costa Rica) - afflicted with kidney problems.

Clara Leonard - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

Mildred Tymkiw - is scheduled for outpatient heart-valve surgery soon, at Ochsner Hospital in Metairie.

Bobby Leonard - awaiting test results from his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

Micah Casey - healing from a finger cut.

Chad Michael - a recent visitor who is undergoing hardships.

Devon Nelson (Roig's grandson) - George asks that we pray for him that he will stay focused on soon enlisting in the U.S. Army.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

The Epistles: Applying Them Today

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

We have been discussing the subject of how to apply the New Testament epistles to our lives today. The area of application of any sort of literature to our lives today is called hermeneutics. What is the hermeneutics of the New Testament epistles, that is, what do these texts mean to us?

The Problem of Particulars that Are Not Comparable (continued)

The problem here has to do with two kinds of texts in the Epistles:

- 1) Those that speak to First Century issues that for the most part are without any Twenty-First Century counterparts, and
- 2) Those texts that speak to problems that could *possibly* happen also in Twenty-First Century but are highly unlikely to do so.

What does one do with such texts, and how do they address us? Or do they?

In this installment we are considering matters that fall under the first scenario. We do not claim to have apostles in the churches of Christ in modern times. Moreover, most denominations in modern Christendom besides Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican do not think of their ministers as standing in the apostolic succession. But the principle that ***“those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel”*** (1 Corinthians 9:14, NIV) certainly seems applicable to contemporary ministries, since it is corroborated elsewhere in Scripture (e.g., 1 Timothy 5:17, 18).

The problem of eating market place idol food (1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1) presents an especially difficult dimension of this hermeneutical problem. Such food was a matter of indifference--both to God and to Paul. But it was not so to others. The same was true of food and drink and the observance of days in Romans 14, and various similar matters in Colossians 2:16-23. The problem for us is, how does one distinguish matters of indifference from matters that count? This is a problem that is speci-

ally intensified because these things vary from culture to culture and from one group to another, just as they appear to have done in the First Century. In America in our time alone the list of such matters has included clothing (length of dresses, ties, women's slacks), cosmetics, jewelry, entertainment and recreation (movies, TV, cards, dancing, mixed swimming), athletics, food, and drink.

As with those who judged Paul's freedom on the matter of idol food, so it always is that those who think abstinence from any one of these constitutes holiness before God do *not* think of them as matters of indifference.

What, then, makes something a matter of indifference? Here are some suggested guidelines:

1. What the Epistles specifically indicate as matters of indifference may still be regarded as such: food, drink, observance of days, etc.
2. Matters of indifference are not inherently moral, but are *cultural*--even if they stem from *religious* culture.

Matters that tend to differ from culture to culture, therefore, even among genuine Christians, may usually be considered to be matters of indifference (wine and non-wine cultures, e.g.)

3. The sin lists in the Epistles (e.g., Romans 1:29-31; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9, 10; 2 Timothy 3:2-4) never include the First-Century equivalents of the items we have listed above. Moreover, such equivalents are never included in the various lists of Christian imperatives (e.g., Romans 12, Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, etc.).

Not everyone will agree with this assessment. However, according to Romans 14, people on both sides of any of these matters are neither to judge nor disparage one another. The free person is not to flaunt his or her freedom; the person for whom such matters are a deep personal conviction is not to condemn someone else.

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Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Stitches of Love Tuesday 9:30 a.m.