



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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STRONG WINE AND POWERFUL BLOOD

By Wayne Camp

TEXTS: Numbers 28:6-8 *It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD. 7 And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering. 8 And the other lamb shalt thou offer at even: as the meat offering of the morning, and as the drink offering thereof, thou shalt offer it, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

As much of a surprise as it may be to some people, God specified strong wine was to be used in several of the sacrifices as a drink offering. One of these was the **continual** burnt offering which was a sweet savor to the Lord. This offering was to be made twice a day every day at morning and at evening. One lamb was to be offered in the morning and another in the evening. Each time an offering was made, one-fourth of one hin of strong wine was to be poured out as a drink offering before the Lord. A hin equaled five quarts. A fourth of that would be one quart and one cup, or about five cups of strong wine. Five cups of wine and one lamb were offered in the morning and five cups of strong wine and one lamb were offered in the evening, every day, seven days per week, except on the Sabbath day

the offerings were doubled—two lambs and ten cups of wine in the morning and two lambs and ten cups of wine in the evening. (Num. 28:6-8).

Now, I would remind all of us that all these sacrifices and offerings pointed to our Lord Jesus Christ. Did this drink offering of strong wine that was offered twice daily point to our Savior? He poured out his blood before God as a sweet savor offering, just as this strong wine was poured out as part of a sweet savor offering. This was a drink offering and he said of his blood, **“My blood is drink indeed”** (Jn. 6:55). He also said, **“Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”**

The blood of Christ is represented in the drink offering of strong wine, and points to the mighty power in his blood, its mighty cleansing power, its mighty propitiating, satisfying, and pleasing power. New and weak wine would not do! It must be strong to represent the powerful blood. Grape juice would have been rejected by God because it would be a weak and beggarly figure of our Savior’s precious and powerful blood. Surely wine should be used to represent his blood in the memorial supper called the Lord’s Supper.

Surely no one will argue that **the strong wine** poured out morning and evening before the Lord as a drink offering was grape juice. **Strong wine** suggests wine that has reached its peak or strength by aging. As Jesus said, **“No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better (Lu. 5:39).** It is strongest and has reached the peak of taste and bouquet. That is the kind of wine that was required for the continual burnt offering made twice daily.

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The Hebrew word is **SHEKAR** which means "that which satiates, that which pleases." It pleased the Lord to bruise the Lord Jesus Christ and to pour out his blood. He was pleased and satisfied with the blood of Christ. He was propitiated through the blood shedding of Jesus Christ. So, this **SHEKAR**, this **strong wine** which was poured out as part of a sweet savor sacrifice, a drink offering symbolizing and pointing forward to the precious blood of Christ which would propitiate God, was real, alcohol-containing wine. It was wine containing enough alcohol that it was

called "**strong wine.**"

Commenting on this, John Gill said that this wine was "old choice wine, old wine being reckoned best, see Luke 5:39, and though this wine was poured out on the altar, and not properly drunk by any, yet it was to be the strongest, best, and choicest that could be got, as it was reasonable it should; since it was poured out as a libation or drink-offering to the Lord, which was his way of drinking it, as the burning of the sacrifice was his way of eating that; all which was typical of the sufferings, sacrifice, and bloodshed of Christ, which are well-pleasing and acceptable to the Lord."

Matthew Henry writes, "The wine to be poured out in the drink-offering is ordered to be **strong wine (v-7)**, the richest and most generous and best bodied wine they could get. Though it was to be poured out upon the altar, and not drunk (they therefore might be ready to think the worst would serve to be so thrown away), yet God requires the strongest, to teach us to serve God with the best we have. The wine must be strong (says Ainsworth) because it was a figure of the blood of Christ, the memorial of which is still left to the church in wine, and of the blood of the martyrs, which was poured out as a drink-offering upon the *sacrifice and service of our faith*. Phil. 2:7."

Why strong wine and not grape juice or new wine? That which represents the precious powerful blood of the sinless Son of God must not be a weak and beggarly element; it must be the best, fullest bodied wine available.

THE BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS THE INFINITE POWER TO CLEANSE FROM SIN.

Jesus Christ washed us from our sins in his own blood. (Rev. 1:5). The more filth, the more cleansing power is needed to get it clean. We gage the amount and type of cleanser by the amount and type of filth to be cleansed. Oh, how filthy must be our sins since only the blood of Christ could cleanse them. Isa. 1:18 Only in the precious powerful blood of Christ could this be possible.

And what will have the power to purge your

conscience from dead works and make you a fit and clean vessel to serve the living God? ***“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*** (Heb. 9:14). How precious is that flow that makes us white as snow. Nothing but the blood of Jesus will do that. ***“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”*** (Rev. 7:14). Only the strongest, fullest bodied, best wine could represent the precious, powerful, cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. God commanded ***strong wine***.

When the Samaritan found the Jew who had been beaten and robbed and left wounded and bleeding by the side of the road, he ***“went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him”*** (Lu. 10:34). What did the man use? Did he lay sliced olives and sliced grapes on the wound? Did he put olive juice and grape juice on the wound? That would have caused further infection. Both are laden with bacteria. The grape juice would be laden with yeast which would cause further infection. The man poured in oil to soothe and comfort and wine to cleanse and disinfect. Only wine would cleanse. Only the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse from sin. The Lord did not command that grape juice be used in the sweet savor offering made every day, twice per day. He commanded ***strong wine*** for only it could represent the cleansing power of the blood of Christ.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HAS PROPITIATING POWER.

God set him forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood. ***“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood”*** (Rom. 3:25). Infinite holiness had been offended. God's holy law had been broken. Holy, infinitely perfect justice cried out for satisfaction. The blood of a billion bulls and goats could never satisfy, propitiate, and satiate the wrath of God. The blood of righteous Job or faithful Abraham

could not satisfy, could not propitiate. It must be the blood of Jesus Christ! That alone would satisfy.

God commanded ***strong wine*** for this drink offering. The Hebrew word is ***SHEKAR*** which means “that which satiates, that which pleases.” The pleasure of the Lord prospered in the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ. It pleased the Lord to bruise him and pour out his blood on Golgotha's brow. He saw all that transpired there and was infinitely satisfied. He was propitiated, satisfied. Only ***SHEKAR, strong wine*** could be used in the daily sacrifice to represent the satisfying, propitiating blood of our Savior.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HAS SIN-REMITTING POWER.

To remit means “to put away, to pardon, to send away.” The blood of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can remit our sins. God set him forth to shed his blood for the remission of sins. ***“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”*** (Romans 3:25). He shed his blood for many for the remission of sins. ***“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”*** (Mat. 26:28). Twice daily, every day the drink-offering and the slain lamb was to be offered up before God. The drink offering of ***strong wine*** was to be poured out upon the altar. Two times daily they saw a picture of the powerful blood of Christ to remit sins in the ***strong wine*** that was offered. His blood can separate our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. ***“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission”*** (Heb. 9:22). Twice daily every day they saw in a figure the absolute necessity of the shedding of the powerful blood of Christ. They saw this figure of the blood of Christ. They saw it in the blood of the lamb sacrificed. They saw it in the ***strong wine*** which was poured upon the altar. Two times day in and day out God was saying to them that there is no remission of your sins or the sins of any without the shedding of my Son's powerful blood.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD HAS JUSTIFYING POWER.

Paul declared that our justification depends on the blood of Christ. ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”*** (Rom. 5:9). Not one sinner could ever be justified before God without the blood of Jesus Christ. We are ***justified by his blood!*** Many Jews thought themselves justified because they were the seed of Abraham according to the flesh. But the law was given that every mouth might be stopped and all, both Jew and Gentile, become guilty before God. There is none righteous. Under the law, men were shown in every possible way their need of justification and the means of that justification. Every time the drink offering was poured out it was a declaration in a figure that some means must and would be provided for the justification of sinners. It was a message to Jews that they too needed justification.

What has the power to justify sinners? The blood of the sinless Son of God is the only ground for our justification. Since every condemned sinner that has been or will be justified must be justified on the grounds of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, that blood must be infinitely powerful. Only ***strong wine*** was to be used to show its justifying power.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS RECONCILING POWER

God was at enmity with man because of his sins. Man is at enmity with God because of his depraved nature. Something must be done to remove that enmity and bring the elect and God together in reconciliation and peace. The grounds upon which God could peacefully and graciously deal with sinners is the blood of Jesus Christ. ***“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven”*** (Col. 1:20).

The precious blood of Christ is the only thing that had the infinite power to make peace. This peace-making power of the blood of Christ was portrayed every morning and every evening to the Israelite when the sweet-savor offering was made.

One way it was portrayed was in the ***strong wine*** that was poured out as a drink offering before God.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS REDEEMING POWER.

Consider the awful depths of the bondage we are in by nature, slaves to sin with no way to redeem ourselves. The elect number into the millions and more, an innumerable multitude each of whom are guilty of innumerable sins. If Christ is to be the firstborn among many brethren, some way must be found to redeem this enslaved innumerable multitude.

What power there must be in that which redeems such sinners! No amount of riches could pay the infinite price of redemption. ***“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”*** (I Pet 1:18-19). A very powerful remedy for our terrible bondage has been found. ***“We have redemption through his blood”*** (Eph. 1:7). Christ has wrought a great redemption by his blood. It is eternal redemption! ***“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”*** (Heb. 9:12). It is such a redemption that it will be the theme of our eternal song of praise. We will sing ***“. . . thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”*** (Rev. 5:9).

What shall be used in the twice daily sweet-savor sacrifice to portray this powerful redeeming blood of Christ? The blood of the spotless lamb was used but it did not necessarily manifest power. What did manifest power was the ***strong wine*** of the drink offering.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS PURCHASING POWER.

Jesus did not pay a small price for his church. He loved it and gave himself for it. Eph. 5:25-27 **(See STRONG WINE Continued Page 6.)**

THAILAND REPORT FOR JUNE, 2010

By Wayne Camp

Since our last report things have been going very well in the mission work in Thailand. We are happy to report that the rainy season has started and the churches, **except for a couple**, that were without water have water again. As far as we know at this time all of the wells are supplying water again. The rivers from which some of the churches receive their water are flowing again. The springs from which some churches get their water are flowing again. We appreciate your prayers concerning this. Some contacted me and wanted to know if there was anything you could do to help end this crisis. Sadly I had to tell those who contacted me that there was nothing we could do. But, what we could not do God has done in sending the rain and replenishing the water supplies.

I believe that since the last report another church has been established. It is the Caan. I am not certain of the pronunciation of this name. From what I know how La Hu names I suspect it is pronounced Ca' an. This church was organized with approximately 60 members. These folks were already Baptists but needed to be taught Sovereign Grace Doctrine. Brother Anond taught them that and set the church in Gospel order.

Having pastored for nearly 50 years in the United States it amazes me how quickly many of these churches accept the doctrines of grace and rejoice in them. Only rarely do we run into any opposition to these doctrines. This is one advantage of working with people who have not been steeped in some other church doctrine. Most of them have a background of spirit worship. I suppose it would be better to say spirit appeasement. They do not necessarily worship the spirits but they do things to appease them so that their children do not get sick, or pigs do not die, and their hens do not quit laying eggs. Of course when they become Christians they cut off the bands on the evil spirit worship immediately as the lady in the picture is having done. I cannot recall how many times I was asked for my knife for this purpose. If I remember correctly Brother Anond was using a pair of scis-



sors on this occasion for I did not have my knife with me.

Probably by the time you receive this issue of the paper Brother and Sister Lee, Ricky Cash, pharmacist, Doctor Darling, Doctor, and Hope Greenlee, physical therapist, will either be on their way to Thailand or will have already arrived. Please keep them in your prayers.

The political situation in Thailand still seems to be in some state of unrest although at this time neither the churches nor Brother Anond are having any problems from this. The situation is up and down day by day. If I knew the situation today and told you, tomorrow it could be entirely different.

It is likely that at this time there are 34 children at the children's Center. The parents of two children in one of the villages died recently and the children are at the center at this time. Brother Anond wrote, **"We have 2 new kids now. The parents just died last week. There was no one to take care of the kids. I just got the children to the childrens' home yesterday. They are from one of the villages. The girl's name is Na na. She is 7.6 years old. The boy's name is Aneh. He is 6 years old. And these kids have go to school now."**

Thank all of you for your prayers and support.

(STRONG WINE Continued From Page 1)

He purchased it with his own blood. “. . . **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**” (Acts 20:28).

Grape juice is relatively inexpensive. If it had been used in the drink offering it would not have portrayed a great price to be paid for the church. But, what of the **strong wine** that was used in the drink offering. As Matthew Henry said, this wine was to be “the richest and most generous and best bodied wine they could get.”

Or as John Gill said, “It was to be the strongest, best, and choicest that could be got.” It must represent in a figure the mighty purchasing power of the blood of Christ. Could mere grape juice do that? No! It must be the strongest, choicest, best, richest and most generous wine they could get. Only such would portray the purchasing power of the blood of Christ. “. . . **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**” (Acts 20:28).

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS LIFE-GIVING POWER.

If there is no blood of Christ for you there is no life for you. **Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him**” (John 6:53-56). Eternal life is granted on the ground of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. John said, “**He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son hath not life.**” In the same vein Jesus said in essence, “**He that has drunk my blood has life and he that has not drunk my blood has not life.**” Spiritually, one drinks the blood of Christ by believing on him as Savior. The life-giving power of the blood of Christ is portrayed in the **strong wine** of the drink offering.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS SIN-FORGIVING POWER.

It is on the basis of the powerful blood of Christ

that God forgives sin. There can be no forgiveness of sin for you without the shed blood of our dear Savior as Paul so clearly sets this forth in his letter to the church at Ephesus. “**In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace**” (Eph. 1:7).

Not only does Paul say we are redeemed by the blood of Christ, he says we have the forgiveness of sins through that same blood. This sin forgiving power of the blood was symbolized in the drink offering of the strong, full-bodied wine which God commanded.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS SANCTIFYING POWER.

He sanctified his people with his own blood. “**Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**” (Heb. 13:12). To sanctify has to do with holiness. The word comes from the same word as does holy. Christ sanctified his people with his blood. How was the Israelite, before Christ came, to portray in a drink offering the sanctifying power of his blood.

Leaven is a type of sin and heresy. Grape juice is abundant with leaven, or yeast. “In fermentation the alcoholic content reaches an amount so high that even the yeast cells cannot tolerate it, thus the yeast cells are destroyed by the power they create. The concentration of the alcohol that will destroy yeast cells is roughly 7 to 14%. Wines with a higher alcohol content have been fortified with an extra alcohol over and above what was created by **their own yeast population**” (Emp. Mine, RWC) (*Folk Wines*, by Jagendorph). “When fermentation is complete and the dead yeast cells and other agents settle to the bottom, the wine is then ‘racked’. This involves drawing the wine off and leaving the sediment which is called ‘lees’. Through repeated racking, every trace of leavening is removed from the wine

and it is *unleavened* (Emp. Mine, RWC) (*Wine Making At Home*, Homer Hardwick, Pp. 8-14). The grapes are crushed and the grape 'must' is allowed to ferment in vats, usually after the addition of sulfur dioxide to suppress wild yeast and organisms other than the true wine yeast. The wine is 'racked off' to separate it from the lees or sediments of yeast, acids and other matter" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*). It is obvious from these expert sources that grapes have their own leaven or "true wine making yeast." In the drink offering that which portrays the blood of Christ must **not** be laden with leaven which is a type of sin and heresy. It must be portrayed by something that is free of leaven and as Hardwick shows, this only happens through fermentation and racking.

The blood of Christ must be represented by something that is both free of anything that corrupts and is very powerful. Grape juice could never meet the requirement so God commanded in his holy law the use of **strong wine**. He did not call for grape juice; he did not call for new wine. He called for the best, the choicest, the strongest, the fullest bodied, naturally fermented wine. Only that could be used to represent the sanctifying power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HAS OVERCOMING POWER.

We have what is necessary to overcome. ***"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death"*** (Rev. 12:11). What a marvelous proclamation! ***"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb!"*** Just as Israel overcame Egypt and were delivered from death on their first born and from the bondage of Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb, even so, the blood of our Passover Lamb is how we over come sin, Satan, and the world.

That overcoming power of the blood of the Son of God is seen in the **strong wine** of the sweet-savor offering.

THE BLOOD OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST HAS COVENANT-SEALING POWER.

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24). His blood is ***"the blood of the everlasting covenant"*** (Heb. 13:20).

The great, eternal, covenant of redemption and grace entered into by the three co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent Persons of the Godhead was sealed and its blessings are ours because of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the blood of the everlasting covenant. Such infinitely powerful blood could only be symbolized with the **strong wine** which God commanded in the sweet-savor offering. Every day, morning and evening, this drink offering was poured out before the Lord as part of the sweet-savor, pleasing, satisfying offering.

CONCLUSION

Every day, twice a day, the Israelites who looked forward by faith, saw the powerful blood of the Son of God portrayed in that **strong wine**. No wonder he commanded the best, the choicest, the strongest, the most precious wine for it portrayed the blood of his beloved Son incarnate.

I would call this wonderful blood to your attention. Without it you are condemned, unsanctified, unclean, unjustified, and the covenant of grace is unsealed.

"Oh precious is the flow"

FIRST IN A SERIES

This is the first article in a series on the subject of wine, and especially, wine in the Lord's Supper. The next article will **SOME EXCOGITATIONS CONCERNING WINE**. Peter said that we should always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in us. I hope that all of our readers will exhibit spirit of the noble Bereans and search the scriptures to see if what I write is scriptural or not.

GOD'S PLACE FOR BAPTISM

By Wayne Camp

From its early origin the Lord committed the ordinance of baptism into the hands of his local churches and the ordained ministers thereof. **"Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, BUT HIS DISCIPLES)"** (Jn. 4:1-2). When he left this earth the Lord delivered the ordinance of baptism to an organization that could administer it until the end of the age. When he spoke to the apostles in Mat. 28:18-20, he spoke to them as ordained ministers of a local church out of which other New Testament churches were destined to come. He had promised a perpetual existence to his churches and therefore the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper were placed in their hands.

Just as a man's house is the center of all his activities, so the Lord has ordained that his house, the local New Testament Church, will be the center of much of his activity. That is why baptism is one of the **two ordinances** of the local church.

GOD'S SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIANS

The local church is God's school for Christians. It is the church that has the commission to **"teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."** The local church is the **"pillar and ground of the truth"** because God has sent his Spirit to **"guide"** them **"into all truth."** There is no station for the propagation and proclamation of truth such as a local church. The association or convention loved by so many is not the pillar and ground of truth. There is a continuous chain of associations and conventions that have gone into rank error over the last 200 years or so. You cannot trust such man-made organizations to be the pillar and ground of truth.

Seminaries and Bible Schools that are operated by conventions and associations cannot be trusted with truth. These schools that

are not under the ownership and control of local New Testament Churches have been virtual volcanoes erupting with the lava of heretical leaven. The only way to keep a Seminary or similar Bible School true to the word of God is to have it sponsored by a true New Testament church. The Lord has charged his churches with the protection and propagation of truth.

Dear unchurched child of God, you will be deprived of the opportunity to learn all the truth you can if you are not a member of and faithful in a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have been a member and learned truth but have now separated from a local church as a member in fellowship, you are likely to stray into all manner of error. We need the fellowship of brethren. We also need the protection from error that is found in fellowship. If one in the fellowship of a church starts departing from the faith, brethren can reason with him. He can have his thinking tested by the questions that brethren might ask in discussions of Scripture. This is why the Lord's churches have been charged with the defense and proclamation of truth.

GOD'S GLORIFYING INSTITUTION

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:21). We live in one of the ages of which this verse speaks. It is God's purpose for his churches that they be the place where he receives the ultimate glory that is possible in this age and in the eternal ages. God will get glory from the destruction of the wicked in the eternal flames of hell. God will let no one rob him of that glory. Yet, it is very clear from Paul's word to the Ephesians that God has chosen to receive the ultimate and greatest glory from the lives of his children when they are members of a local New Testament Church.

If there is a place where a man should be king it is in his own house. Louisiana once had a governor whose slogan was something like this: "A chicken in every pot, and every man a king in his own house." In advancing that cause he sponsored laws that protected the rights of citizens in their homestead. One who lives in a moderate home pays no property tax on the home or the land on which it is located within

certain limits. Even in the city one can still keep a cow, chickens, horses, and such.

A good husband and father is magnified in his own house. Certainly our Heavenly Father should receive the ultimate glory possible in his house, the church of the living God. But, you who are unchurched are not bringing him the glory that you could if you would become a faithful member of a local New Testament Church.

AN UNFLOCKED SHEEP

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of god, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:28-29).

Two times in the verses here cited Paul refers to the church at Ephesus as a flock. It is a gathered flock of God's sheep with shepherds to look out for its welfare, to watch over it and protect it from ravenous wolves, i. e., false prophets.

If you are one of God's sheep and not a member of a New Testament church you are like an unflocked sheep. It is natural for sheep to flock together. It is unnatural for a sheep to not desire the company and fellowship of the flock. Those who are out of the flock are considered ***"sheep"*** who ***"have gone astray."*** Are you a stray sheep? If you are out of fellowship and/or out of the membership of a local church of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are a ***stray sheep***.

When Jesus was preparing his church for his departure and their future days without his bodily presence with them he said: ***"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"*** (Lu. 12:32). Dear unchurched child of God, this promise was directed to a flock, a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a promise that you have no claim in as a ***sheep with no flock*** of which to be a part.

The sheep without a flock has no shepherd to feed him. ***"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."*** Here we see described the gentle care of a shepherd for his flock. It is used to describe the Lord and the care of his sheep. It is sad to see a herd of sheep without a shepherd to feed and to care for them. It is sad to see a church without a pastor to care for them, lead them, and watch for their souls. It is an even sadder spectacle to see a sheep that does not belong to a flock and has no shepherd either. This is the sad plight of the unchurched child of God. ***He is a sheep without a flock and without a shepherd (pastor).***

No one should join a church just to be a member when he dies so that his obituary will sound good if read at his funeral. It has fallen my responsibility on several occasions to be asked by a family to read the obituary furnished by the funeral home at the services for someone. I have read several that went like this: "Although Mr. _____ was not a member of any church at the time of his death, he did profess to be a Christian." That is one of the saddest statements that can be made about a child of God, if indeed he were one. It is like saying: "Here is a sheep without a shepherd; here is a sheep that was a part of no flock." May God be gracious to the unflocked sheep and bring them to one of his flocks where they will have the comforts of the flock, the fellowship of the sheep, and the watch and care of a God-appointed undershepherd, a pastor.

AN UNBODIED MEMBER

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (I Cor. 12:27).

In the church at Corinth there were various schisms. Paul used the analogy of a human body to show them their need of and dependence upon one another. He declared that they were each individual members of one local body, the church of God at Corinth. He said: ***"If the foot shall say, Because I am not***

the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were the hearing, where were the smelling?" He then says: *"The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have not need of you."* (I Cor. 12:15-21). It would be a sad occasion indeed if one of your hands said to one of your feet, "I don't need you." Sadder still, and worse still, and more absurd still would be the case if one of the hands said to the entire body: "I have no need of you. I will sever myself from the body. I can exist just as well or better separate and apart from the body." That would not be true. Neither is it true that a saved person can be a better Christian outside the body of Christ, the local church, than in one of Christ's blood bought churches.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude this article, I have mixed emotions. I pity that child of God who does not see the importance of being in the fellowship and membership of one of the Lord's true churches. He is like a glowing ember that is removed from a bed of coals and is soon black and smoking. It gives no heat and no light and smells of smoke. He is as salt that has no savor and is cast out to be trodden under the foot of man. He is like a light that is covered by a bushel basket.

I feel concern for those around this unchurched child of God. He is a stumbling block and not a good influence for Christ. He has shown that he despises (lightly esteems) the local church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that God may open your eyes, if you are an unchurched child of God, and show you that you tread under your feet the blood-bought church of Jesus Christ when you sever yourself from the services of his church. May he show you that you are especially guilty of this sin if you have severed yourself totally from the fellowship and membership of one of his churches. I pray that he might deal with you and give you godly sorrow and repentance for this.

IF YOU TALK THE TALK THEN WALK THE WALK

Matthew 23:3-5 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."

DO I KNOW THE BIBLE?!?

(FROM A SERMON BY ELD. BILL SASSER)

There was a church I heard about that called a man to preach, and they called him in and said, "Brother, we want to examine your knowledge of Scripture. Do you know the Bible?"

He said, "Do I know the Bible!"

A deacon said, "Well, John, you say you know the Bible?"

He said, "Yes sir, I know the Bible."

One of the other deacons said, "Well, why don't you tell us the story of the Good Samaritan?"

"Well sir," he said, "There was a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, but he fell among thorns and the thorns sprung up and choked him. And as he went he didn't have any money, but he met the Queen of Sheba and she gave him a thousand talents of gold and a hundred changes of raiment. Then he got into a chariot and he drove furiously, and while he was going he passed under a big juniper tree. And don't you know, when he went under that juniper tree, his hair caught on a limb and he hung there many days and many nights. The ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink, and he ate five thousand loaves of bread and two fishes. One night while he was hanging there asleep his wife, Delilah, came along, and she cut off his hair and he fell down on stony ground.

"But, you know, he got up and went on and it began to rain. And it rained forty days and forty nights, and he hid himself in a cave and lived on locust and wild honey. Then he went on until he met a servant who said, 'Come and take supper at my house.' But he made an excuse and he said, 'No, I won't go for I've married a wife and I can't go.' The servant went out into the highways and hedges and compelled him to come in. After supper he went on until he finally came down to Jericho, and when he got there he looked up and saw that old Queen Jezebel sitting way up there high in the window. And she was laughing at him, and he hollered up there and said, 'Throw her down.' And they threw her down, and he said, 'Throw her down again,' and

they threw her down seventy times seven. And of the fragments that remained thereof, they took up twelve baskets full, besides women and children. They said, 'Blessed are the piece makers.' Now whose wife do you think she'll be on that great judgment day? And you asked me, do I know the Bible!"

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- Dan Chamberlin: *What is Revival?*
- Arthur Blevins: *The Need for Revival*
- Wayne Camp: *False Revivals*
- Dan Chamberlin: *History of Revivals in America*
- Bill McDaniel: *Preaching the Gospel and Revival*
- Ed Colley: *Prayer and Revival*
- Dan Cozart: *Obstacles to Revival*
- Arthur Blevins: *Preaching God's Law and Revival*
- Ed Colley: *Will There Be an End-Time Revival?*
- Dan Cozart: *Revivals in the Old Testament*
- Bill McDaniel: *Revival Versus Reformation*
- Wayne Camp: *Sovereign Grace and Revival*

Laurence Justice: Pastor
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***“Wilt Thou not revive us
again: that thy people may
rejoice in thee?”***

Psalm 85:6

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