

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

Who Are Those Judged at the Second Advent?

By Dr. Manfred Kober
Foundation Magazine

The prophecies concerning the Second Advent of Christ to earth at the end of the Tribulation contain some very sobering details. For the tribulation saints who did not suffer martyrdom, it will be deliverance. For every unbeliever on earth, it means eternal doom. The Bible speaks of **seven distinct groups** who will be judged before Christ sets up His kingdom.

1. The Antagonists of Believers (2 Thess. 1:1-7)

Paul gives persecuted believers in the church age and especially during the Tribulation the comforting prospect that their persecutors will at last be destroyed. ***"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven. . . in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God. . . who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord"*** (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

2. The Armies at Armageddon (Rev. 19:15, 21)

Even as Christ returns with His bride from heaven (Rev. 19:11, 14), the armies fighting at Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) and around Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-2) will cease their carnage and direct their weapons against Christ and the saints (Rev. 19:19). With a sharp sword proceeding out of His mouth—most probable a word of judgment—Christ will destroy the armies of the world. An angel will invite the fowls of the air to consume the corpses strewn over Israel.

3. Antichrist and the False Prophet (Rev. 19:20)

As Christ descends to the Mount of Olives and crosses the Kidron Valley to enter Jerusalem, He and his saints will encounter a scene of unprecedented carnage and destruction. Jerusalem will have been destroyed for its final time

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Surviving the Culture of Now

Dr. J. B. Hixson
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"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil" (Psalm 37:7-8).

Have you heard of the tyranny of the urgent? These days an even bigger issue is the tyranny of the *now*. With pervasive connectivity and cloud-based data, it has become almost impossible to unplug and simply *do nothing*. And because of the constant clamor of seemingly inescapable technology, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the pressures and stresses of life. *The more demands there are*

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EDITOR'S DESK

The Death-throws of Civility and Courtesy

by Pastor Tod Brainard

While going through my files and cleaning out old material, I found an article from ***U.S. News and World Report*** that I saved from way back. It was dated April 26, 1996. The article is entitled “**The American Un-civil War**” and was written by John Marks. With all the things happening in Washington, D.C., and throughout our country, these days I thought I would share with you some of the contents of this article as to where we are in the realm of civility and courtesy as a nation. The subtitle of the article reads, “**How crude, rude, and obnoxious behavior has replaced good manners, and why it hurts our politics and culture.**” Now mind you, this was written twenty-two years ago but is very applicable today:

“We live in a time when schools use metal detectors to keep out guns and knives; and universities insist on speech and behavior codes to stem the tide of hatred and disrespect; legal cases become shouting matches; the internet is littered with raunch and menace; political campaigns resemble food-fights; back-talk, and head-butts are idioms of sports; and the popular culture accosts itself from week to week with displays of violence, sex, and foul language. At best, it is a bad time to be enveloped with decorum; at worst, anarchy lurks just

around the corner.

*A new poll conducted in February by **U.S. News and Bosell Worldwide** reveals that a vast majority of Americans feel their country has reached an ill-mannered watershed. Nine out of ten Americans think incivility is a serious problem. And nearly half think that it is extremely serious. Seventy-eight percent say that the problem has worsened in the past ten years; their concern goes beyond annoyance with rudeness. Respondents see incivility as evidence of a profound social breakdown.*

More than ninety percent of those polled believe that it contributes to the increase of violence in the country; eighty-five percent believe that it divides the national community; and the same number see it as eroding healthy values like respect for others.

Talk to Americans, and a picture emerges of a nation addicted to the pleasures of an unruly society with emphasis on individual expression, flouting convention, and its free vent of emotion, but shocked at the effect of this unruliness. Americans feel embattled in their personal and professional lives by a rising tide of nastiness.

Says Martin Marti, a philosopher of religion,

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The PROJECTOR

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to “project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day.” It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God’s answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.



“Afterward”

by Pastor Tod Brainard

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”—Hebrews 12:11.

Living in Northwest Florida has its challenges in October. Historically, this is the month that tropical storms and hurricanes form in the Gulf and work their way inland. As I am writing this article, Hurricane Michael is landing 140 miles east of us at Apalachicola as a Category 4 storm. No calm is deeper than after a hurricane. It is almost unsettling to have the intense wind and rain and then the calm and sunshine.

How about climbing a steep grade and sitting down at the top to rest? I remember a friend of mine telling me about the time he and his brother climbed Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga; about halfway up, his brother began saying as they were climbing, “There is a Coke machine at the top. There is a Coke machine at the top.” Afterward, after the climb, they would get to relax with a cold soda. Our sorrow, our chastening, our difficulty is like the passing wake of a ship; behind it is the normal level of the ocean.

Afterward in our text is the Greek word *husteron*. It is used nine times in the New Testament and with its sister words, twenty-one times total. According to the *Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, this word translates “that which comes after, behind,

coming after, etc.” Please note three simple thoughts regarding this word *afterward* as used in this text:

First, the Christian receives the best things last. It comes AFTERWARD. The farmer must plow and plant before he enjoys a harvest. C. H. Spurgeon put it this way: “The Christian life is a series of ironies; He grows rich by his losses, he rises by his falls, he lives by dying, and becomes full by being emptied.” The best things come last.

Second, the Christian who understands the concept of afterward can learn to sing in the dungeon. Acts 16 records the incarceration of Paul and Silas. They had been beaten and put in stocks. As Christians, what do you do when you have been unjustly charged and mistreated? You enjoy your God and sing His praises. The affliction of the world, flesh, and the Devil, or God’s chastening in the moment are not joyous but grievous. But **afterward**, it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto those who are exercised thereby.

Third, the Christian must endure the cross now and afterward receive the crown. “First things first!” The crown is afterward. While growing up, our children always wanted dessert first. Why eat the vegetables now? Let’s skip right to the pumpkin pie, right? There are many Christians who feel the same way. They want to skip over the trouble and sorrows of life and get right to

the reward phase. Such is not the case. This brings me to another misconception that is often believed.

The Distorted Concept of Second Chances

Here is another use of the word afterward in Hebrews 12:17—“For ye know how that **afterward**, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

Some people would rather read verse 17 as “Afterward, if you mess up, you will continue to get chances.”

Too many times, preachers use well-intentioned, but distorted phrases to try to convey the great truths of the Gospel. One of the repeat offenders is the phrase “God gives second chances.” Usually we hear it expressed this way: “*We are all sinners, and even with the best intentions, we continue to sin. But God gives us a mulligan, a second chance to redeem ourselves. As a matter of fact, He gives us third and fourth chances. Our God is so awesome that He gives us unlimited do-overs.*”

This sounds great because we like to think God is good, loving, and fair according to our standards of good, loving, and fair. We remember the times our teachers let us retake the test or when they

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gave us an extra credit assignment. Men love using their mulligan on the golf course to replace a shank with a perfect drive down the middle of the fairway. And so, when we hear “God gives second chances,” we like it because it seemingly gives us another shot to make it right. Or maybe not?

“God gives second chances” conjures the picture of God saying to us “All right, you did your best and failed, so I am going to give you another chance to prove yourself.” Is this the good news of the Gospel? The concept of resting in Christ is diluted as we seek do-over after do-over.

Passing the second test is not a given. When I use a mulligan off the tee, it’s usually to hit the ball further into the woods. In the same way, when we know what the Bible says about our sinful nature, what makes us think we have another chance will change our prospects. When we read the Bible and hear what it says about us, we realize we need something better than second, third, and fourth chances to fail again. Apart from God’s grace, our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked. Without Jesus Christ, our best intentions and efforts are filthy rags in the sight of our holy God and leave us in our desperate condition.

Thankfully, because of God’s overwhelming love and grace towards us, He offers us something better than a second chance.

He Offers His Righteousness!

When we consider what the Bible

says about our sin and God’s holiness, you soon realize we have a problem bigger than needing another chance at doing our best. We aren’t doing our best. Paul says in Ephesians 2:1 that we are “*dead in our trespasses and sins.*” Then in Romans 3, He reminds us that there is “*none that doeth good, no, not one.*” We stand before God condemned because of our sins and a second chance would not make things better.

God offers us something better than a second chance. He sent his Son, who would never need another opportunity to get it right. Jesus Christ perfectly obeyed the Father in all things before offering His life for us as a ransom on the cross of Calvary. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:21 that “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” This means the person who trusts in Jesus Christ receives the gift of perfect righteousness. We stand before the Father, not with Him seeing our sins and failures, but draped in the perfect righteousness of his Son. Why would we want to continue to fail at proving ourselves to God when He gives us a right standing before Him as a gift through faith in His Son?

He Offers Forgiveness!

Picturing salvation as receiving from God a second chance leaves us with a huge problem. Our failures are still there. Sure, there may be one time we got things somewhat right in our own strength, but we leave a litany of failures and blunders behind us. What are we going to do about those? They can’t simply be

erased by one good effort.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9–10). Jesus Christ, who obeyed God perfectly, gave His life to be a ransom for us. In His death, He took our sins upon Himself, receiving in His body the penalty for all our sins. Because He offered Himself up as an offering to the Father for us, we receive the gift of forgiveness when we trust in Jesus. No longer do we stand before the Father draped in our failures; instead, He wipes them away and holds them against us no longer. **No second chances are needed because the Father does not remember the failed first chances.**

He Provides Justification!

We use colloquial sayings about second chances because we have lost the beauty of what God has declared us to be in Christ. “*There is therefore now no condemnation for them which are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1). There’s no need to ask for more chances, because God effects in us an eternal salvation on the merits of Christ’s righteousness.

The Father doesn’t condemn us, but instead He declares us to be righteous before Him. We stand before Him as if we had never sinned and are robed in the perfect life of His Son. We would have no hope before God if we appeared before Him with our shoddy efforts, but because of Jesus Christ’s righteousness, we enjoy the experience of being fully right with the Father.

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 6:23, **For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:**

This thought is introduced by three prior proverbs which tell of the admonition by a father to his son to keep his commandments, nor to forsake the law of his mother, knowing that they shall always lead him.

A father and a mother must always remember for whom they are rearing their children. They are not to simply correct or chastise that they have peace and quiet, but they are to correct their children that they may, on the road of life, be used of God. Reproof, which is to be a way of life, must be regarded highly as instruction of great value and as an act of love. And that needs to be communicated clearly to the child.

How important it is to hear the Word of God with the understanding that it is given to reprove, rebuke and exhort! That is the norm of God's Word and to despise that is to despise the purpose of the Word of God. For a home to forsake reproof in favor of pleasantries and tickled ears is to forsake the way of life.

Listen to God's Word!

Proverbs 13:18, **Poverty and shame *shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.***

Proverbs 15:5, **A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.**

The very teaching that these proverbs state about reproof must be taught to the child. The very act of reproof must be elevated to a high place of honor for reproof is proof that you are in the family. I think that the Bible is clear in that children will not know in their heart that they are a part of the family unless reproof is a way of life

Proverbs 3:11,12, **My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction, For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**

There must be teaching that reproof is a gift of God and gifts of God must never be despised nor resisted. Stiffening up or exhibiting a prideful attitude must never be tolerated.

Reproofs are to produce a humble child who realizes he is poor and needy and welcoming of God's reproof; a child who will say to those that reprove, "Thank you, I needed that"; a child who will react cheerfully to reproof knowing that it comes from a mother, a father, and God Himself who always has his best interest at heart.

Parents are to always be fair showing that justice is a valuable commodity. Proverbs 25:12 tells us, **As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.**

Exercise this admonition in the following ways:

- Insure that the child knows clearly why reproof is given.
- Explain on each occasion that what you are doing is always in the best interest of the child.
- Never give chastisement in anger.
- Do not provoke your child to wrath by unfairness or refusal to consider all the facts.
- Insist on being thanked after

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(Continued from page 1—Who Are Those Judged?)

(Zech. 14:2). Millions of corpses are strewn about. The only two individuals left alive are the Antichrist and his False Prophet: ***“The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet. . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone”*** (Rev. 19:20). Not until one thousand years later will they be joined by those judged at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:15).

4. The Apostates and False Teachers (2 Pet. 2:1–9; Jude 15)

Religious leaders who made a mere profession of religion during the church age but then turned from that profession and became false teachers will, of course, remain behind at the rapture; it is because the Lord has reserved ***“the unjust unto the day of judgment”*** (2 Pet. 2:9). They are that special group who deny the Lord who bought them and will bring upon themselves swift destruction (2 Pet. 2:1). Religious teachers carry a sobering responsibility and, if they apostatize, will receive the greater condemnation (Jas. 3:1).

5. The Accursed of Israel (Ezek. 20:33–38)

Obedient Jews during the Tribulation will have divinely prepared refuge east of Israel in the mountains of Ammon,

Moab, and Edom (Matt. 24:16; Dan. 11:41). Soon after Christ returns, He will bring them from their refuge and from the nations among whom the rest were scattered (Ezek. 20:33–38). The scene of judgment may well be the valley just west of their refuge, Wadi Araba, extending from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, approximately 120 miles long and 10 miles wide. God, speaking through Ezekiel, says, ***“And I will cause you to pass under the rod . . . and I will purge out from among you the rebels”*** (Ezek. 20:37–38). It appears that one third of Israel will emerge as a redeemed remnant from this judgment (Zech. 13:8).

6. The Abominable among the Gentiles (Matt. 25:31–46)

The Gentiles will likewise be judged soon after Christ’s return. As He is seated on the Throne of David in Jerusalem, He will gather all the Gentiles of the earth into a valley nearby, identified as the “valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2, 12). There He will separate believers from unbelievers. ***“And before him shall be gathered all nations [Gentiles]: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats”*** (Matt. 25:32). The goats, or unbelievers, will be told, ***“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”*** (Matt.

25:41). How sad that though hell was never created for man, and that rather God provided a Redeemer, countless numbers of Gentiles refusing to acknowledge their sin and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior will be doomed to the Lake of Fire!

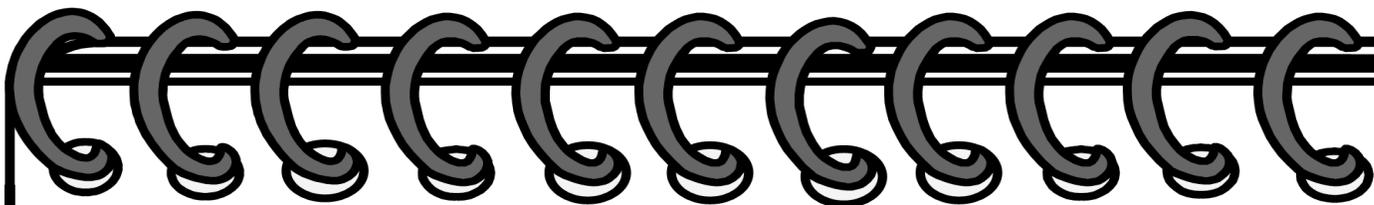
7. The Arch-enemy Satan and His Host (Rev. 20:1–3)

At the Second Advent, Satan will be bound by an angel and placed into a deep pit for the next one thousand years. Presumably, all the fallen angels will join him in that place of confinement as well (Zech. 13:2). After the thousand years, Satan and His demons will be released for a little season. Their totally futile attack against Christ and His bride in Jerusalem will result in the attackers’ destruction by fire and ultimate confinement to the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:9, 15).

It becomes clear from the above that not a single unregenerate individual will enter the kingdom. When Christ returns to earth, the Judge of the universe will remove every sinner from the earth. As King, He will then inaugurate His glorious kingdom.

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Dr. Manfred Kober served as a Bible college professor for thirty years and has led over forty Holy Land tours as well as many Reformation tours in Europe. He currently speaks at churches, Bible conferences, and Christian camps.



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Children in Charge!

Humanistic thought has totally permeated society, and many parents and educators endorse the philosophy that elevates mankind into the realms of deity. Of course, we understand that humanism began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve wished to become wise like God. Man's original sin has developed to the point today where parents have relinquished their responsibility to make decisions for their children. So, children (as little gods) see themselves as a powerful force to make decisions and to demand authority for ruling in the home and as well as in the classroom. Many television programs show children in charge of the home and depict parents as ignorant or downright oblivious to what is going on in the home. Sadly, many times the reason children have taken control is that parents have abdicated their responsibilities. I have often heard parents ask their child, "Do you want to go back to the Christian school next year?" What a question to put upon a child! Parents must assume the responsibility to tell the child what, when, where, and how important decisions have been made for them.

Christian educators who desire to have a Christ-centered philosophy must constantly work to fight this worldly philosophy—especially when new students transfer into our classrooms in a Christian school. It is with sadness that many parents, as well as children, do not understand the "chain of command" taught in Scripture. As Christian school teachers, we must teach children that they are sinners in need of a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Understanding that the knowledge of God is the beginning of wisdom, we must begin teaching students about Him. However, children who believe that they are in charge must be taught that in order to please God they must submit to all authority that God has placed over them. This realization is often very humbling for the child but is a necessary part of Christian education!

Having the responsibility of control or decision making taken off students' shoulders can be quite liberating for them. Children can learn to rest, assured in the knowledge that they can simply be children and enjoy their home and classroom.

Granted, the only way children mature into adulthood is to learn to make decisions (not life-altering ones, though!) little by little. They must learn to decide what clothes are appropriate for the day, what snack options will be best, what extra-curricular activities they are interested in, etc. Once children make decisions, they must be taught to live with the consequences of those decisions. When they make decisions to take music lessons or to get a pet or sign up for a sport activity, etc., they must learn to assume all responsibility necessary for their decision without the option of quitting! This will give children the understanding that with control comes responsibilities. Learning to deal with those responsibilities is vital for children to avoid future mistakes on those big issues that will inevitably come their way as they grow up.

Children are not equipped to be "In Charge" of any of life's important milestones. They need to watch their parents take the lead as they learn how to make proper decisions, to face responsibilities, and to learn the consequences of important decisions. Adults must assume responsibility until children mature into adults who are fully capable of handling life's increasing demands.



(Continued from page 2—Editor’s Desk)

who has written on this subject, **“The alternative to civility is first incivility, and then war.”**”

In the two decades that have passed since this article was first written, we have witnessed the continued decline of the culture, and we hear the death rattle of civility and courtesy. **Looking back over ancient cultures, we know that civilization ceases when civility ceases.**

The picture of the last days given to us in the New Testament are days of incivility, deceit, treachery, lawlessness, corruption, ungodliness, death, and destruction (Romans 1:18–32; 3: 9–20). Because parents in America no longer emphasize civility and courtesy, our children are growing up with no moral compass and no sense of civility. In addition, a society totally devoid of the moral foundation presented in the Scriptures is a society on the brink of ruin.

America is in deep trouble. I sadly concur with Martin Marti’s statement, **“The alternative to civility is first incivility, and then war.”** We are witnesses now to the grotesque absence of civility. What is next?

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(Continued from page 5—Proverb Practicals)

giving reproof so as to elevate the very act of reproof. It may not at first be given in sincerity but eventually its purpose will be known.

- Never tolerate rebellion after giving reproof. Proper reproof demands the proper reaction by the child.
- Uplift reproof as a way of life for spiritual growth.
- Always conclude chastisement with a loving embrace and time of prayer together. The spiritual aspect of love should never be forgotten.

Those who regard reproof will be those who in due time will be honored. Regarding reproof means paying attention and learning from its lessons. Responding correctly to it is a building block to understanding and growth. Those who do not regard reproof are destined to not grow and to not grow is to die. Therefore, not regarding reproof is to bring doom upon oneself.

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Don’t forget to visit our website:

theprojector.org.

All past issues of *The Projector* are found there and organized by year, issue, topics and authors.

Statistics about Pornography and the Church

The statistics presented below were released from the George Barna Group and Covenant Eyes (a company that specializes in web-filtering services) and were compiled by Jeremy Wiles, CEO of KingdomWorks Studios, and were published in *World Magazine* on October 13, 2018.

47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.

70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past twelve months.

56% of American divorces involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in pornographic websites.

68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18–24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.

59% of pastors said that married men seek their help because of porn usage.

13% of self-identified Christian women say they never watch porn—87% of Christian women say they have watched pornography.

55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.

What does the Bible say?

Please read the following

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(Continued from page 1—*Surviving the Culture of Now*)

on our attention, the more there is to be stressed about!

This has always been the case: *distractions* lead to anxiety; *focus* leads to peace. King David certainly knew this. He had plenty to distract him from his task of leading God's nation. He faced enemies from within, enemies from without, pressure to provide for his own people, personal demons, and more. There were plenty of things to raise David's blood pressure. In Psalm 37, David reminds us how to survive the distractions of the *now* and to replace them with steadfast confidence in the *One* who transcends time.

The principles in Psalm 37 have never been more timely. How can we overcome the rings, tweets, beeps, buzzes, chimes, vibrations, notifications, alerts, and blinking lights that demand our attention *right now*? To understand David's thoughts in Psalm 37, we need to go back to Psalm 36, which was also written by David. Psalm 36 is a *Lament Psalm*. It expresses distress or sorrow over some issues and asks for divine help. In Psalm 36, David addresses the wickedness of evil people and pleads with God to intervene. His description of the wicked is apt: **"There is no fear of God before his eyes"** (Psalm 36:1).

The thought of Psalm 36 advances in Psalm 37, a *Wisdom Psalm*. It emphasizes themes like right living and the contrast between the righteous and the wicked. In Psalm 37, David urges the righteous not to let the apparent good fortune of the wicked upset them but to continue to trust in God's ultimate justice.

In Psalm 37:7, David encourages us to "Rest in the LORD." The Hebrew word *rest* means "to be quiet." It is the same word that David uses in Psalm 62:5 when he says, **"My soul, wait thou only [silently] upon God; for my expectation is from Him."** It is tough to "wait silently" when our smart phones are constantly demanding our attention *right now*.

Although smartphones appeared on the landscape of human history only recently, the problem of distractions is nothing new. Even the Jesus' disciples, who knew nothing of technology, were prone to miss the voice of the Lord amid the pressures and diversions of the Greco-Roman culture. On one occasion, God the Father had to literally interrupt Peter while he was talking to get him to listen to Jesus. It's a fascinating scene. Take time to read about it in Matthew 17.

I find it interesting that only twice in the New Testament does God the Father speak directly and audibly from heaven to earth. And both times He says the same thing: **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** But the second time, God makes this statement by adding three very interesting words: **"Hear ye him!"** (Matthew 17:5). Because Peter was so busy talking, he missed the presence of the Lord. Wow! Think of that—God had to literally interrupt the first church leader in order to get a word in edgewise! I guess some things never change.

The rings, tweets, beeps, buzzes, chimes, vibrations, notifications, alerts, and blinking lights that demand our attention *right now*

are definitely a distraction. And they certainly do not have a calming effect. Indeed, usually they stress us out. So, what's the solution? How can we survive the *culture of now*?

King David was spot on when he said that we need to "wait **silently**" for the Lord. For David, perhaps that meant setting aside his harp; for Peter, it meant holding his tongue; for us...maybe it means turning off our smartphones. When we wait silently for the Lord, it changes our focus. Instead of looking down at a small, handheld device, we can look up and turn our attention to the Lord. With this new perspective, suddenly all of our problems begin to look very small.

This is why David goes on to say, **"Fret not"** (Psalm 37:7). The word *fret* in Hebrew means "to become hot." It is a figure of speech that describes the process of "growing hot with anger." It is similar to the English idiom we use when we describe becoming angry as "making my blood boil" or "growing hot under the collar." It's true—when we get *angry*, we get *hot*. Our blood pressure goes up. That is why when we want someone to calm down, we often say "Simmer down!"

Do you want fewer distractions and less stress? Do you want to survive the *tyranny of the now*? Wait silently on the Lord, simmer down, and set your mind on things above by staying in the Word of God.

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*Please pray
for the ministry of
The Projector.*



(Continued from page 4—Afterward)

When we describe God's salvation wrongly, we encourage people to trust in themselves rather than in the grace God offers. "God gives second chances" makes us trust in our own works of righteousness and will lead to self-deception that causes people to miss the true Gospel.

Look at the "afterward" of Esau, who had no second chance.

"For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:17).

Esau is a tragic example of one who commits a willful sin which

allows no second chance (Hebrews 6:6; Hebrews 10:26). The author presses the case of Esau as a warning to those who were tempted to give up Christ. **The second chance mentality does not always hold according to the Scriptures.** Willful sin has special consequences. Even in criminal law in some states, if a murder case is found to have one special circumstance, the jury must return life imprisonment without parole. A special circumstance may include rape, wrongful death of an unborn infant, kidnapping, arson, or armed robbery. Esau sought repentance with tears (emotional distress), but not with a changed mind about God, himself, and his sin. Sadly, there are many who equate emotional distress with repentance.

The Bible indicates in Esau's case that there was no forethought of consequences, no "afterward" thinking but rather a single mindset of getting what was desired in the moment and a willingness to give away his first-born double inheritance. Those two things by the way are not equal. In the balance, the inheritance outweighs the bowl of porridge all day long. Yet, in the moment, his hunger, his desire to satisfy himself, was more important. This is how unchecked emotion distorts rational thinking. Watch, dear friends! Many decisions were filtered through the emotions and brought ruin. Unlike Esau, dear friend, there must be a consideration of AFTERWARD and the possibility of no second chance.

Ω

(Continued from page 8—Statistics about Pornography and the Church)

Scriptures and saturate your heart with what God says regarding the pursuits of the flesh and their consequences. Several passages presented here illustrate the principles of walking in the Spirit and living a holy life before God.

"I will set no wicked thing before my eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me"—Psalm 101:3.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"—I Corinthians 6:9–11.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God"—Galatians 5:16–21.

"And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not

that thy whole body should be cast into hell"—Matthew 5:29–30.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"—Romans 8:13–15.

It is abundantly clear from these statistics that living after the flesh is more predominate in the "Christian culture" than walking in and with the Holy Spirit of God. Saved individuals must humble themselves under the dominating power and authority of God's Word and His Spirit with the result of flushing out and cleansing the desires and pursuits of the flesh. Holiness, which is personal separation from the world, the flesh, and the Devil, is the pursuit of the believer in Christ (I John 2:15–17).

Ω



Stars of the Morning

DOGS?

A Story for You
by "Aunt Carolyn"



"Oh, good grief, Mikey, you are loony! There's no such thing, and you know it!

"Is, too! I saw a picture of one, and I want one for keeps!"

"I repeat," Molly insisted, "you are nuts! Not just nuts, but *nutz!* I've heard of guard dogs, guide dogs, police dogs, sheep dogs, *mad* dogs, and *hot* dogs, but I've never heard of prairie dogs! There's no such thing!"

"Oh, yes, there is! I've seen pictures of them. They are small and cute with little rounded ears, and I want one!"

"Yes, my darling little brother, you can build an *imaginary* cage and feed *imaginary* food to an *imaginary* dog! I repeat, you're nuts!"

"I am not nuts! There *is* such a thing as a prairie dog, isn't there, Dad?" Mike threw the burning question to his father as he came into the room.

Without any warning, Dad was thrown into the midst of the mortal argument and simply tossed off a simple answer, "Of course, there is such a thing. Why?"

Mike was thrilled! "See! I told you so!" he gleefully gloated to his sister. "See, I told you so!"

"Wait a minute! What's all this about? What's going on here?" Dad questioned.

Mike quickly chimed his answer, "I said that I wanted to get a prairie dog, and Molly said there was no such thing just because she had never seen or heard of one! But there is, isn't there, Dad?"

"Yes, there is. Just because you haven't seen something doesn't mean it doesn't exist. But let's not make a mountain out of a mole hill, or a prairie dog hill. The next time we go to the farm to visit Grandpa perhaps you two can scout out the pasture. I expect you will spot plenty of prairie dogs in a prairie dog town! I'll give them credit; they are cute and also plenty smart!"

"Oh, great!" Molly slapped her hand to her forehead in disbelief! "Now we have not only prairie dogs but the *dogs* live in a *town!* If Dad hadn't said it, I wouldn't believe what I am hearing!" Molly was not amused at the absurdity!

When the weekend came, Ted was excited and spilled the whole story out to Grandpa. "Of course, you can go to the pasture and look for prairie dogs. I just might come with you. They are skittish little things though. They can spot an enemy far off. If they see a predator like a fox, coyote, snake or owl, they disappear like a flash into their holes in the ground. They are smaller than rabbits with little round ears and short little legs and tails. With their sharp teeth, they eat the prairie grass like little lawnmowers!"

The children walked quietly with Grandpa, hoping to get sight of the little wary, squirrel-like rodents. Every family has their own home underground. They are fine engineers digging long tunnels like a long hall with special rooms hollowed along the way for the nursery room where they raise their pups, to the pantry for storing food, and sleeping rooms. Perhaps the cagiest part of their plan is that they build several exits to assure they are never trapped inside, always having a way of escape if in danger. A sentinel stands posted on duty at the main door watching for trouble. If a predator

(Continued on page 12)

