

Words of *Truth & Reason*

JUNE 2011 – VOL. I, NO. 6
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO OFFER? #4

The sooner you learn about the law of gravity, the better off you will be physically. Morally, you can avoid many “bruises and breaks” by learning the laws of life in the sound wisdom the Bible offers.

Keep sound wisdom... and your foot will not stumble (Prov. 3:21, 23).

The book of Ecclesiastes will shape your general priorities in life, helping you to make God and His way more important than work, family, riches, and recreation. Read Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14 for a sample of the book’s wisdom.

The book of Proverbs offers daily wisdom, showing why you should work, avoid alcohol, maintain sexual purity before and during marriage, and spank your children. Read Proverbs 1 for a sample of Solomon’s wisdom.

The book of Job will teach you how to endure unexplainable tragedy and loneliness. Read Job 38 to be reminded why you need to seek wisdom from God.

America is gaining more knowledge than wisdom. We can maintain a car but not our family. We help bodies fight disease, but the soul is ill with sin of all sorts (as our recent series on “Sin” showed) and few people care. Do you seek and keep sound wisdom? Can we help you learn it? Contact us.

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SIN (3)

Last month, we studied the necessity of doing what God commands and that doing nothing is sin. This month, consider that when God commands something, we sin if we do something similar but different.

In the Old Testament, God told certain priests to worship Him by burning incense, using fire from a certain altar (Numbers 16:46). One day, two priests burned incense to God, BUT they burned the incense with fire that was not from the altar God commanded. They used fire which God had not commanded. The result? “So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them” (Leviticus 10:1-2). They partially obeyed God—doing something *similar* but still different than His instructions, and He punished them.

That problem exists today, more often than you might realize. To help you identify this problem, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and then answer this question: Would it be sinful to add grape jelly to the bread that is eaten within the Lord’s Supper? Why or why not?

SIN (4)

What is your answer to question in the previous article? Would God be pleased with grape jelly on the unleavened bread? After all, God did not specifically forbid grape jelly. Let's see--

Would it be sinful to add jelly to the unleavened bread when remembering Christ's death? The correct answer is "Yes," it would be sinful. Why? For the same reason that God was not pleased with the two priests of Leviticus 10. These are things God **has not commanded** which are added to what He has commanded. Other sins, similar to this are--

1. "infant baptism" God **has** instructed believers to be baptized (Mark 16:16), but He **has not commanded** "infant baptism." That is a command of man and is an addition to God's word. The parent who chooses this has sinned.

2. *playing music in worship to God* Is there a difference in singing a song and playing a song unto God? God commanded the church in the New Testament to sing (1 Cor. 14:15). God **did not** command them to play. Obeying God once demanded burning incense, circumcision, and playing music, but Christians have no such command. Are you doing what God **has not commanded**? What is the difference between this and adding grape jelly to the Lord's Supper?

Please contact us with your comments and questions—let's search the Scriptures!

Then Nadab and Abihu...offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them... (Lev. 10:1-2)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

FORNICATION & ADULTERY PRIDE MONTH?

I hope this title sounds ridiculous and repulsive to you, but some American leaders are proclaiming national pride in other sins, so why not these too?

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me. . . do hereby proclaim June 2011 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month." (news.yahoo.com 5-31-11). (I'm still waiting for Heterosexual Pride Month!). It is sad that our nation's most visible leader takes pride in sexual immorality (Jude 7).

But homosexuality is not nearly the most prevalent form of sexual immorality plaguing our nation—without a doubt that "dishonor" belongs to fornication and adultery. So should we have Fornication & Adultery Pride Month? No, because all of this is rebellion against God.

Before engaging in sex or marriage, we must learn to whom God, "by the virtue of the authority vested in" Himself as God, has granted these privileges. **PLEASE READ** Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Hebrews 13:4. The failure to learn from God about sex and marriage is destroying our nation. Will that failure cause you to be eternally lost in hell? Please send us your comments and questions.

Questions from this month's articles:

1. What is the perfect source for sound wisdom?
2. Why did the LORD devour Nadab and Abihu with fire?
3. Name one example of something God has not commanded, which men do anyway.

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

* OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)

-- *Sometime in the next few weeks, someone might drop by your house for a few minutes, to ask if you like the new format of this monthly publication and are interested in continuing to receive it.*