

Stand Therefore

Young People's Magazine

Discipling Young People for Biblical Living

Issue 18

Leave the World!

- *The Sin of Adam's Fall*
- *The Apostle Paul*
- *Coming Out from the World*



Verse to Memorize:

**O God, thou knowest my
foolishness; and my sins are not
hid from thee.**

Psalm 69:5



LORD, when our hearts perceive Thy worth,
Desires unknown before take place,
Our spirits cleave no more to earth,
But long for holiness and grace.

John Newton

Welcome

In this issue, we hope to provide some help for you in doing what is right in the sight of God. You may be familiar with terms like 'holiness', 'righteousness', 'sanctification', and the like, but what do they mean?

Holiness

Separation from the world, and seeking to be more Christ-like.

*TEXT TO LOOK UP: **2 CORINTHIANS 6:17***

Righteousness

Doing good things to other people around us, particularly Christians.

*TEXT TO LOOK UP: **GALATIANS 6:10***

Sanctification

The process of being made holy, and being made more like Christ.

*TEXT TO LOOK UP: **PHILIPPIANS 2:5***

Some questions to ask yourself:

Do you see that your life is displeasing to God?

Are you growing closer to Christ?

Are you learning more about Christ?

Are spending time in prayer and Bible study?

We will doubtless have many difficulties, and many times do what we should not do, but this is what we should want. Do you want these things? Do you want Christ? If not, I am afraid for you. If you want to have eternal life after death, then you must repent and believe on Jesus Christ.

Introductory Note

The Editor

You may notice that there are a few changes in this issue. We hope that by these, the material will be made more accessible to many of you, and so more helpful to you. There will be more changes in the months ahead, and soon, Lord willing, we will have a big announcement for you. Please pray for us as we seek the Lord's will for the future of this work.

Accompanying this magazine this month is a short booklet on the matter of 'Studying the Scriptures', which we trust will be of use as you look into the Word of God.

Please see also on the next page the details for the next Young People's Meeting at Bells Yew Green Chapel. Our website (www.standtherefore.weebly.com) has more details on events upcoming in the next few months, so please do keep informed by this means.

Please do mention this work to any who might appreciate it. If you would like some extra copies of the magazine to pass on, then do let us know, by the contact form on the website. Do also invite others to come to the meetings, if you appreciate them.

May the Lord bless you each.



Stand Therefore

Young People's Meetings

The next meeting will be held, in the will of the Lord, on

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 2:30pm

at **Bells Yew Green Chapel**

Bayham Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9BJ

(Directions are given on the chapel website 'Find Us' page; see web address below)

The addresses will also be streamed **LIVE** on the Bells Yew Green Chapel YouTube channel *(accessible from both the chapel and the Stand Therefore websites below)*

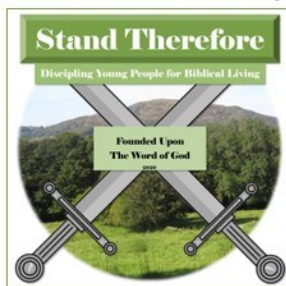
GIVEN TO PLEASURES

An address by William Arrowsmith, director of Stand Therefore:

There will be time for fellowship after the meeting.

All of any age are welcome to attend!*

*Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



www.standtherefore.weebly.com
www.bellsyewgreenchapel.weebly.com

Spurgeon's Baptist Catechism

Question 17

Q. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Explanation

The question asks: what was the result of the fall? What did it do to Adam's position before God? How was it displeasing in God's sight? The answer to this question has four parts:

1. Guilt: a result of sin against God, bringing condemnation
2. Lack of original righteousness: losing the perfection of the state of man at creation
3. Corruption of his nature: man now has a natural bent towards the things that are wrong
4. Actual transgressions: the wrongs things themselves

Application

What is our natural position before God, since we are descendants of Adam, and therefore in the same case as he? If we seek to be more pleasing to God, we must fight against the natural disadvantages that we have, being fallen people.

Without Christ, hopes of reform are hopeless. We are unable to do anything for ourselves. So, see that you truly know Christ in your heart, for that is the only way to please God.

Try to learn this catechism question, and also what it teaches.

The Apostle Paul

During Christ's three years of ministry on the earth, before his death, he was often opposed by the Pharisees. They were very strict about all of the Old Testament laws of worship and living. They did not accept Christ, though they knew well the prophecies about him.

The Apostle Paul was brought up as a Pharisee, known as Saul of Tarsus. He was brought up and trained under one of the leading Pharisees of the time, Gamaliel. But he was not a Christian. In fact, he went about persecuting the Christians.

He agreed to the death of the first martyr, Stephen, who was stoned for being a Christian. But as he travelled to Damascus with a letter allowing him great liberty to arrest and imprison Christians, he was struck blind by a great light. God spoke to him, and he was converted to that belief which he had so much persecuted.

After this, he began to preach Christ to the Gentiles. He suffered persecution for it. He was then sent out from Antioch for each of his three missionary journeys, before he was taken to Rome.

Though he was used greatly of God, and was inspired in the writing of a large part of our New Testament, he struggled much in striving after holiness in his personal life. In Philippians 3:13-14 we read that he had not 'apprehended', or, he had not reached perfection. In Romans 7 also, we see the great struggle depicted by this famous apostle, particularly in verse 19: 'For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.' He could not do the good he wanted, and did the evil he abhorred. If such was the apostle's experience, that great man of God, how much more have we a great battle to fight.

Come Out From Among Them

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

2 Corinthians 6:17

A vital part of being holy is being separate. This is important if we will seek to do the Lord's work in his way. Do you profess the name of Christ? We must ask ourselves whether we obey the words of this text? Have we really thought concerning this matter of being separate, or have we just accepted that which is customary around us? In Christ, we are legally cleared of debt at the time of our conversion; but we are not then perfect. The process of making us perfect must continue throughout our lives. On this earth, it shall never be complete, but we shall be prepared for Heaven.

From whom or what must we come out?

To answer this question, look at verse fourteen of this chapter. Here we find the following instruction: 'Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers'. In the verses between this and our text, there are many stark contrasts portrayed, demonstrating the vast difference that should exist between the believer and the unbeliever.

Come out from among them. Otherwise, the chosen people of God will become corrupted. They have been saved from the things of the world, yet they tend towards them somewhat still, and need to remove themselves as far as possible from them. There ought to be no close relationships with worldly people, no marriage, no business partnership, no best friends of this nature. Yes, it may seem restrictive and limiting, since most of the world continues in sin; but we have been saved out of these things, and dare not go back. Once you know something of the nature of God, you must seek to live to his glory.

How ought we not to live in this world?

There is a specific instruction given to this end in the text. 'Touch not the unclean thing'. In the Old Testament, we read much detail concerning uncleanness, and unclean things, which, if a man touch, he must be separated for his uncleanness certain days. He must be separated, that he does not make the rest of the people unclean.

This was ceremonial uncleanness, designed to depict spiritual uncleanness. It was particularly physical then, and many laws of cleanliness are useful today, but are not sin. Spiritual uncleanness is not entirely devoid of practical application. Playing video games, which, for instance, require the player to aim to kill, is an example of touching the unclean thing for the believer today. In like manner, having wrong thoughts of immorality - mere thoughts - is equally 'touching the unclean thing'.

How should we live in this world?

The instructions of the text may be taken thus: 'Be ye separate' and live as those who are received by Christ. Those who are saved and are believers have an eternal debt of love and gratitude to the Lord, and this may be shown by our obedience. The unclean thing is defined by the Word of God. We do not like to hear some things, for they are hard to our ears. Take care that you do not try to explain away commands of Scripture which touch upon your darling sins.

There are sins and temptations which are common to all. You must read the Scriptures, and pray that the Holy Spirit of God would convict you. The best advice I can give is that you prove, or try and test, all things by the Word of God, and beware of the amusements of the world: video games, films, novels, immorality, fashion, famous stars, sports, news, and entertainment and all the like. These will sap the life out of your Christianity, if you are truly saved, and will take up your valuable time when you ought to be serving the Lord, and seeking how you should do it. Come out from among them, for Christ's sake.

Stand Fast in the Faith

*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13*

As Christians, it is very much our duty to obey the Word of God, and to do all his will. But in this matter, there will be conflict. It will not be only a smooth journey through life, but there will be storms and tempests to buffet and shake us, which will try us; thus, if we would be right Christian people, true to the Lord our Saviour, we must do as this text bids us.

What things may shake us?

Pressures

We may have pressure from friends and family members. Since we are called to leave behind and shun many things of the world which are enjoyed by others, we may be mocked. Tradition may put pressure on us also; every Christian ought to be constantly reviewing their lives, and seeking for greater reformation. With conviction on certain matters, there will be things further to be given up, and it will be harder if we have always done them.

Afflictions

Further, it may be that we are afflicted with sickness and perhaps poverty. Christ never promised worldly or carnal prosperity. Rather, he told his followers that they would be hated of all men, and suffer many things, as he, our Saviour, did. In these things we must stand, and not question the great designs of the Almighty. Satan may also tempt us to sin, and after falling, may tempt us that we are too sinful to be Christians; that Christ does not receive sinful men. Satan may also put doubtful thoughts into our minds, and cause us to question the truth of

the Gospel. It is good to search our hearts, to see if our conversion is real, but we must remember that Christ receiveth sinful men. Let not these things prevent or hinder you in standing fast in the faith.

How may we stand fast in the faith?

Let us consider some antidotes in this conflict. We have some things given in the text which will help us as we seek to stand fast in the faith. Let us carefully observe and meditate upon these, that they may be of benefit and help to us as we seek to live right before God.

Watch

It is every Christian's duty to watch himself, to guard and to keep himself. He is not to have an eye to others, to see how they do, what they do wrong, and what they possess; nothing of the sort. But rather, to guard his own soul, to search his own heart, and to watch his own life. Bad habits are so easily and quickly formed, and yet they are so difficult to remove. So watch yourself, that you do not begin to slip in personal devotions, in speech, in attitude, and all the like.

Quit You Like Men

This is to infer that we ought not to be weak and out of control over ourselves, but rather the opposite. Self-control is something that we desperately need. It will help us to be measured, to do all things in moderation; not to eat too much, or to be drawn away easily by enticing desires and lusts of the flesh; but rather to be firm with ourselves.

Be Strong

The third is simply that we ought to be strong. The Scriptures teach that the joy of the Lord is our strength. How may this joy be obtained? By a close walk, and by close attention to the Word of God. We obtain our strength from Christ alone. It is a personal knowledge of Christ that will be the source of strength.

Mortify the Flesh

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.
Romans 8:13

What does the Bible mean, when it speaks of mortifying the flesh, or the deeds of the body? Well, what does it mean to mortify? The word basically means to kill, to put down, to assert authority over, and to seek to destroy. This is what it is to mortify.

But what does this mean? How are we to put down the flesh, or the deeds of the body? What is meant by these last terms? What is meant by the flesh, and the deeds of the body? Both of them refer to the same thing. They do not refer to our physical flesh. Instead, they refer to the sinful desires which are still a part of our nature.

Though we may be truly saved, and have come to God, repenting and asking for forgiveness in the first place, we will not be perfect. We cannot live without sinning on this earth. That joy is reserved for Heaven.

But this is not an excuse for sinning. We will naturally sin without trying to, so we must try to fight against the desire to sin. This is what is needed, and this is why we are exhorted to 'mortify the flesh'. How are we to do this? What is required of us in this duty?

Maintain close communion with God

You need to be close to God, if you would do what God wants you to do. This is something which has to be kept up all the time. You cannot afford to have a single day off. To do this, you must be much in prayer. At the very least, every day you must

come to God, confess what you have done wrong, that you know of, and pray that he would wipe this fresh sin away; and pray also that you might be forgiven of sins that you do not know of, or cannot remember.

Also, however, adore God in prayer. Praise his name, and rehearse his great attributes in your mind, so that you do not forget to whom you are praying. Pray also for yourself, that you would be given wisdom and courage, that you might speak of the Gospel. Pray that you would be led and guided to do the right thing. This speaking with God is vital.

Seek to learn more about what God wants you to do

Read your Bible. Do not just read it, but think about it. Every single time you open it, pray for some application to yourself, and seek to benefit from reading it. Try to memorize some words of what you have read, so that you can bring them to mind and think about them when you have free time.

Seek to learn from the examples of men and women in the Old Testament, and from the clear directions of the New Testament. It is important to recognise what needs to be done, but then also to go and to do it.

Work on your self-discipline

As young people, passions are strong, and will suddenly rise up, and perhaps will betimes catch you unawares. This may be a great cause of sin, and in such a case, the message comes the more necessarily and powerfully - mortify the flesh. Seek always to gain control of your passions, and do not let them run riot over you without a great struggle.

Do not be surprised or overly discouraged when you fail. Perhaps you have an angry outburst, or give in to some sudden temptation which rises through you. Repent before God, and apologise if it was before another. Having done which, forget those things that are behind, and press on. Continue, but be the more prepared for the same thing happening again.

Seeking a Living Faith

*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.
2 Timothy 3:5*

Being a Christian is not just something which one is by name. In a very basic sense, a Christian is someone who has cried out to God, being aware of his sin, and has repented of sin, and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. But it is easy to deceive oneself in this matter, being just an outward Christian.

The text above is speaking of people who are in the professing church - people who say that they are Christians. Do you profess to be a Christian? Do you like to think that you are a good person?

Are we just good people?

It is possible to appear to other people to be a good Christian, without being really saved from sin and eternal death. It is possible to just read your Bible, attend church, take notes during the service, and perhaps say some spiritual things, even profess the name of Christ, but not be a true Christian.

You can appear to be a good person, but that may just be a covering. Underneath, you may be just as another, still focussed on self and worldly things. This is a form of godliness. An outward form will never make a child of God.

Christianity is not decided by your outward behaviour. It is decided by the relationship between you and your God. Are you personally right with him? Do the things of God and Christ stir you? Do they cause great interest to you? This is how it must be, if you would be a true Christian; but this is the opposite of your natural state. What must be done? Do you find yourself in such a state? Are you truly born again? What is Christ to you?

Whatever your state, it is imperative that you pray. Above all else, this one thing is necessary. Come to Almighty God with reverence, humility, and sincerity, and plead with him, from your heart, that he would save you, and make you a real Christian.

Dead religion has no hope

It has no backbone. It is on the side, and it is often of little enough interest. It does not touch your deepest emotions, nor is it so felt. It is most certainly not saving. Your soul will not be saved by a form of godliness. My friend - if you profess Christ, do not be embarrassed if you feel that you have a dead religion. Even now come to Christ, and confess your sin. For he is faithful and just to forgive sin for Christ's sake.

Christ calls to you - come to him. Leave behind the forms, but enter in the spirit and truth of being a follower of Christ. Trust in Christ, cast all upon him. Do not be satisfied until you have a burning love within your breast for Christ. Do not be content to rest on forms, and outward things - but seek a religion of the heart.

See a crucified Christ

Do not become so numb to the sight of a crucified Saviour, Messiah, Redeemer, that the scene no longer stirs you. Christ suffered for sin - oh will you not come to him, and surrender to his cause, and throw all in for his sake, who has suffered all for wretched people? He who has come down from the heavens, to this poor earth, for the sake of mankind, who could do nought of themselves.

Oh that every one might find Christ as their Beloved; the Prince, the Ruler, the Sovereign, and yet also the High Priest standing before God on our behalf. See Christ - bleeding for our sakes; Christ, suffering the torment that we deserved for our sakes. Words fail to describe him in his beauty, as our righteousness. Friends, may God himself, by his Spirit, stir up love in your cold hearts, that you might seek his face, and find, by Christ, a living faith in him.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12



Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:13

www.standtherefore.weebly.com

Stand Therefore is a ministry for young people, seeking to proclaim the glorious truths of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seeking to disciple them in ways of Biblical and holy living, that they may stand for the Gospel.