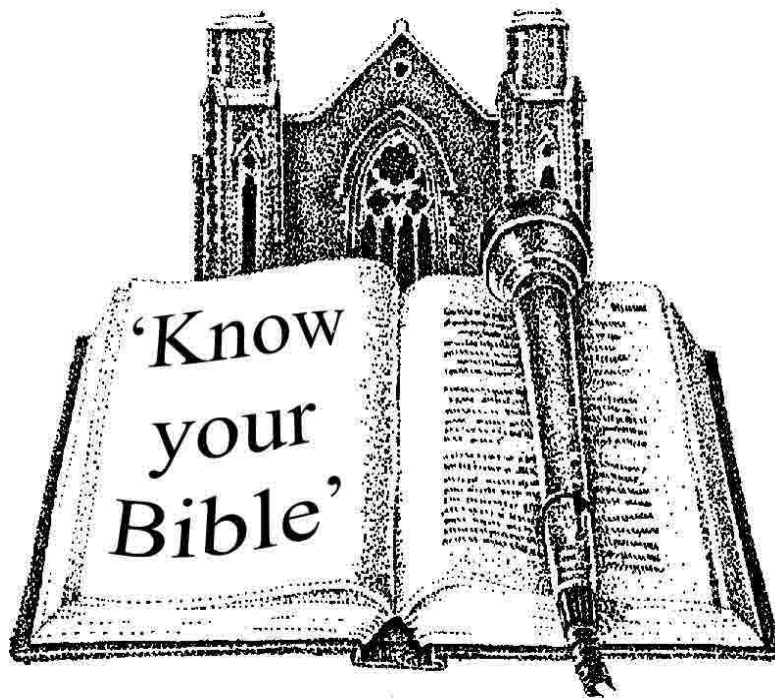


Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

Study Notes by Stuart Olyott



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Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

1. DAILY WORK

Attitudes to daily work have changed radically in recent years.

What does the Word of God teach??

1. Work is God-given.

It is a divine ordinance - not a 'necessary evil'.

It is God's will that men should work.

- God Himself works, Genesis 2:3, John 5:17. We are made in His image, Genesis 1:26-27.
- Hence Adam, even before he became a sinner, worked. Genesis 2:15
- Other Scripture passages make it clear that it is God's intention for us to work.
That this is so is a testimony to God's wisdom. See Psalm 104:19-24. Isaiah 28:23-29.
- The Fourth Commandment teaches the same lesson. Exodus 20:9, Deuteronomy 5:13.
- Even in heaven, in glory, we shall work!! Revelation 7:15, 22:3.

2. Work has become toil.

- When sin came into the world, work ceased to be a joy, and became toil.
Frustration; monotony; drudgery; disappointment - these are all parts of the curse of God, which came on us after the Fall. See Genesis 3:16-19.
- It has become an occasion for all sorts of sins. Exodus Ch1, James Ch 5
Some people make their work and its rewards the be-all and end-all of their lives.
They are idolaters. Luke 12:16-22.
Some people use the existence of work as a means of exploiting and oppressing others.
- A Christian bears in mind these 2 facts:
If he does NOT work, he is in open rebellion against God, who ordained it, and created him to do it.
If he DOES work, he will feel the effects of the curse, and see, in his life at work, all sorts of sins committed.

3. Work is compulsory.

- Jesus worked! Mark 6:3. There can then be no Christ likeness without it, and there is certainly no blessing to the sluggard (Proverbs 6:6-11, 10:4, 13:4, and 20:4).
- Paul worked! Acts 18:3.
- We are to work! There are no IF's and BUT's about it. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-15, Ephesians 4:28.

4. Work is to be done to the glory of God.

Ephesians 6:5-9 “... as the servants of Christ.”

Colossians 3:22-4:1 “... as to the Lord.”

Christ Himself is your employer! (Even if you are an employer!)

So: - be punctual; be thorough and careful; work conscientiously, giving a full day's work; concentrate all your energy and interest on your work for Him!

The monotony and drudgery are for HIM!

HE will provide opportunities for soul winning there - but never to the detriment of the work He has called you to do.

If HE were the boss you would - be more honest; be more just in disputes; be well turned-out; be a friend, and considerate work-mate; be willing to be known as a Christian.

Well, He IS the employer!!

How the working-places of our land need the fragrance of true Christian workmanship and Christ like character!!

Some closing notes:

- This brief message only considers the basic teaching concerning work. When this is clear, it is easier to consider such questions as strikes trade unions, worker participation etc. etc. from a Biblical perspective.
- It is those who will not work that God's work condemns, not those who cannot.
- It is unthinkable that a Christian should, be non-employed when there is some sort of work available. However, the emphasis in scripture is that people should work in jobs which make use of their gifts and acquired skills.
- God's word knows nothing of the “working mother”, we have an example of a single woman working (or was she a widow?) in Acts: 16:14. A wife works alongside her husband in Acts 18:3. But the normal role of women is made clear in. 1 Timothy 2:15, 5:14, Titus 2:3-5.
- Although work is a great part of life, it is not the Whole of life.
- The Bible gives teaching about a weekly Sabbath, leisure, cultural activities etc, and we shall examine these in future weeks.

Next week: The use of Sunday.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

2. THE USE OF SUNDAY.

Sunday is becoming more and more secularised and 'continental'. This is what most people want. Church authorities welcome the trend. Few believers seem to care. What does the Bible teach??

The Sabbath is binding on all men and women.

- It is a creation ordinance, binding on man AS MAN. Genesis 2:2-3.
- It is part of God's moral law, which has never been withdrawn. Exodus 20:8-11.
- Its importance is underlined by the prophets. Isaiah 1:11-13, 56:1-5, 58:13-14, Jeremiah 17:21
- Jesus did not set it aside, but declared that He rules it. Mark 2:28.
- It has a spiritual significance (Hebrews 4:4). But so does marriage (Ephesians 5:32).
Both continue as ordinances of God. Those who see their spiritual significance, delight in the actual ordinance all the more.

Sunday is the day.

- The 4th commandment defines the proportion of time, but not the day. This has to be decided by other factors.
- The Saturday of Jesus' burial was 'the last of the Sabbaths', and the day of His resurrection was the 'first of the Sabbaths'. Luke 24:1 (Greek).
- He hallowed Sunday by rising on it, appearing on it, pouring out His Spirit on it; and causing it to be the day of the preaching of the Gospel, the salvation of sinners and their integration into the local church.
- Sunday observance is the characteristic of the New Testament church, and was unanimously received. John 20:26, Acts 2:1, 29:6-7, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Revelation 1:10.
- Some believers continued also with a Saturday Sabbath, but this falls away, and it is to this that such texts as Romans 14:5-13, Colossians 2:16, Galatians 4:10-11 refer.

How Sunday is to be spent.

This blessed day is to be remembered beforehand, jealously guarded, and to be whole day set apart to the Lord:

NOT:

- In copying the Pharisees. Sunday remains as the God-ordained day of rest, but we are not to impose upon it Mosaic regulations which have passed away, such as Exodus 35:2-3 and Numbers 15:32-36; nor a man-made list of do's and don'ts, like in Matthew 12:1-2.
- In working. All that comes under the Bible meaning of the word "work" (earning your living; recreation; the thought behind both, etc.) is to be laid aside. Nor are we to cause others to do these things. These are for the other six days. You can't give your undivided attention to these, and to God; and you cannot reasonably stop working for religious reasons, and then spend the time in pleasure seeking.

- In doing nothing. God's rest after creation is not inactivity, but a ceasing from one sort of activity (John 5:17). Sunday is to be a holy resting from one set of objectives, in order to seek another set.

But

- In coming together with other Christians, in formal assemblies, and informally. Acts 2:1, 20:7, John 20:26, Proverbs 27:17, Romans 1:12.
- The purpose is edification - building up in the things of God. This is brought about particularly by the preaching of the Word, and the Lord's Supper, both of which should feature in a church's weekly Sunday ' pattern. Acts 20:7
- In evangelism. The day of Pentecost began with a Christian assembly for mutual help and encouragement, but the Spirit's coming also consecrated the day to evangelism, and is a pledge of His blessing in this connection. Acts ch.2.
- In works of mercy, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, especially to save life, to heal, and to work for the spiritual welfare of others. See Luke 6:9, Matthew 12:5, 10-13, Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-6, John 5:6-9, 16:17.
- In works of necessity. We must not narrow these down just to those things which are essential for survival! The Sabbath was made for man – for his welfare. Mark 2:27. Keeping the Sabbath, and our best interests, are not opposites. See Matthew 12:1-8, 11-12. Nothing is sinful unless it militates against the reason for which the Day was given.

.....

- Even unfallen man needed the Sabbath. It was God's provision for the satisfaction of his spiritual needs.
- True godliness and enjoyment of God and the proper observance of the Sabbath, are intimately linked - they stand or fall together.
- We need to build our Christian lives more round a correct view of the Sabbath, and less round, 'special' occasions, and entirely personal disciplines.
- Nothing would be more spiritually beneficial to both the churches, and the individual Christian.

Next week: Leisure

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

3. LEISURE.

The teaching of the, Fourth Commandment.

God says,

"Six days shalt thou LABOUR, and do all thy WORK." Exodus 20:9, Deuteronomy 5:13.

- This does not mean that we must spend 6 full days earning our living! Scripture makes it clear that we have other things which MUST be done during the week - for instance, we must obey the cultural mandate, eat, sleep, tend the family, serve our neighbours....etc.
- We must understand that when Scripture speaks of LABOUR and WORK, it, means more than just earning our living, and includes everything else that we do in the week. What we today call "leisure" is even included in the words LABOUR and WORK!
- The fact that Scripture uses the words LABOUR and WORK, even of leisure-time, teaches us 2 things:
 - I. Leisure does not consist of "doing nothing."
 - II. Leisure-is to be active and purposeful.

Leisure does not consist of "doing nothing."

- Doing nothing leads to sin. 2 Samuel 11:1-3.
- People who do nothing are constantly condemned by the Word of God. See proverbs 6:6-11, 10:26, 15:19, 18:9, 26:15-16 etc.
- To do nothing is to contradict a man's whole make-up. He is made in the image of God - who works! Genesis 1:26-27, 2:3, John 5:17.

Leisure is to, be active and purposeful.

- We are created and commanded to live to glory of God. That is the PURPOSE of life. Each aspect of life should actively serve this purpose. Romans 11:36, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ had rest and leisure; but there was a PURPOSE in it. Mark 6:30-31, Luke 9:10.
- It can be seen at once that Scripture completely contradicts many modern notions concerning leisure.

Scriptural suggestions.

- God has given us "all things richly to enjoy". Indeed, we have a, positive mandate to engage in cultural pursuits (Genesis 1:28). It is right to enjoy the pursuit of knowledge, the countryside, music, art, literature, discovery, travel, wholesome entertainment etc. But they are not to become our idols.
- We are to be stewards of our leisure, as much as anything else God has given us. Rather than a list of do's and don'ts, we should apply the tests of 1Corinthians 6:12, 10:23, Philippians 4:8 to each activity.
- All our abilities are to be used to the full - see Ecclesiastes 9:10. But we do not use them all in earning our living. We should use them in hobbies, and favours.
- Some time spent in bodily exercise meets with the approval of Scripture. 1Timothy 4:8, 1 Samuel 20:35-40. The New Testament frequently commends the self-discipline of athletes. Sport certainly helps to develop this important quality.
- God's Word teaches a doctrine of the family, where each member is to have strong and clearly-defined relationships with the others. All the world knows this takes TIME. Time with the family is a priority.
- We also have a responsibility to our neighbours - see the Good Samaritan, and "be not weary in well, doing". This also takes TIME.
- Many men of God also spent much of their leisure time in the lost art of meditation. Genesis 24:63 Psalm 1:2, 8:3, John 1:48.
- Our church-life is to be a great priority. It is sinful to organise our leisure-time in such a way that we cannot fulfil Acts 2:42. It needs to be stressed that "fellowship" should be with the whole church, not just our own age group.
- The Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 still stands, and cannot be fulfilled only at our places of employment. The world perishes and a significant proportion of our leisure time should be spent in spreading the Gospel.
 - There is a danger that we will pursue only SOME of these activities, and not others. It is vital to keep a healthy balance.
 - To do this requires forethought, and planning. There is no other way to be found "redeeming the time". (Ephesians 5:16).

Our lives will be more complete; richer; definitely healthier; happier; more holy; more worshipful; and much more blessed to others - if we practically grasp these Scriptural principles concerning leisure.

Next week: Television..

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

4. TELEVISION.

Television is here to stay. It is a fact of life - the most important single influence on most people's minds. Never have so many people done the same thing - yet with so little social contact. Christians are to live to God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31) and to be different (Romans 12:1-2). What does this mean as far as TV is concerned?

The effects of television.

It has robbed children of their childhood, and provoked youth's present disorderliness; it has serious psychological effects, such as killing initiative, causing reality to be irritating, and breeding dissatisfaction.

Disrespect for authority; suspicion of established institutions; decline in religious belief; advance of illicit drug use; sexual permissiveness; violence; social disintegration; racialism; gambling; - and gullibility.

Should I have a television?

A machine cannot, of itself, be evil - not even a machine designed specifically to be a means of entertainment. Possession of a TV is a matter of Christian liberty - and each believer must make up his own mind in the light of the principles of Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23.

Some things for television-owners to remember.

- TV is habit-forming - be ruthlessly strict with yourself.
- it is perversion to find injury, pain, horror and violence entertaining.
- Christian family life is sacred - not even TV must undermine it.
- never on Sundays
- you pay to watch - so have a say in what is shown.
- you are playing with fire - television WILL mould, rule and dominate: it WILL cause important and legitimate things to be neglected; it WILL become an idol - UNLESS constant vigilance is maintained.

A rule to help you to choose what programmes to watch.

Philippians 4:8

- True - does it portray; life as it really is?
- Honest - does it cause honourable things to be honoured?
- Just - does it apportion blame and give credit to the right people?
- Pure - does it elevate or denigrate what God has made sacred?
- Lovely - does it lead me to admire the beautiful or the ungodly?
- Good report - does it lend itself to recommendation?

- our minds are to be set on the excellent and the praiseworthy.
- if we do not control the box, it will enslave and destroy us.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 - I shall answer to God even for my TV watching.

Next week: Pop Culture and its Music.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

5. POP CULTURE AND ITS MUSIC.

Introduction

The world over a monolithic culture is embracing young people, and pushing a wedge between them and older people – parents in particular. This culture is the fruit of modern philosophy, and its focal point is pop music.

Pop music.

This is of many types. The great milestones in its development are - the Negro Blues of last century - Rock of the 1950's - the Beatles 1963 - the Rolling Stones 1965 - the folk revival of the 1960's - and the Unisex singers of the present.

It is a bewildering world of contradictions, leaving its inhabitants with no dear direction, no absolutes, and the impression that what pleases you is OK, and what doesn't please you is out.

Some characteristics of Pop culture*

- Idealism - which forgets man's sinful nature,
- No absolutes - what's best for you is what counts.
- No authority - yet in danger of submitting to a new tyranny.
- Youthism - what's young is best.
- Religion - interest in the East, meditation, yoga, mysticism etc.
- Pleasure - this is what matters most.
- Despair - life is meaningless, boring, and without purpose.
- Group Identity - fitting-in is a great priority.

A word mostly to the 'oldies'.

- Don't write it all off - some of it is good.
- Take time to listen - keep the lines of communication open. James 1:19
- Draw distinctions between moral matters and matters of liberty.
- Biblical standards are what matter, not personal preferences.
- Help young people to think through for themselves; don't just 'lecture'.

A word mostly to younger people.

"For best results, follow Manufacturer's instructions!"

Some things are clearly right or wrong (10 Commandments, etc.)

Test out "grey" areas once more with Philippians 4:8.

- True - does it portray life as it really is?
- Honest - does it cause honourable things to be honoured?
- Just - does it blame, and give credit, to the right people? What issues of justice and injustice does it leave out? Is it really fair?
- Pure - does it elevate or denigrate what God has made sacred-? Does it cover up the impure by means of the word 'love'? What is love anyway?
- Lovely - does it lead me to admire the beautiful, or the ungodly and ugly?
- Good report - does it lend itself to recommendation.

Conclusion.

- We may go along with those aspects of culture which are in accord with Biblical standards, or principles of Christian liberty.
- Those aspects of culture which cut across the Word of God must be challenged, forsaken, and reformed.
- Cultures change, and so does music.
- We do not get our standards from the WORLD but from the WORD of God.
- When the world is ended, it is by this Word that we shall be judged.
- What we all need is a greater submission of our thoughts, words and lives to God's Infallible Word.

1 Peter 1:24 – 2:2.

Next week: Money.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

6. MONEY.

Never before has the ordinary Christian had so much money.

Here are some of the most important things which Scripture says on the subject:-

1. It is right to have money, and to use it.

Abraham did. Genesis.23:9, 16.

David did. 1 Chronicles 21:24-25.

Jeremiah did. Jeremiah 32:9.

Jesus and the Twelve did. John 12:6, 13:27-30.

Godly women did. Luke 8:3.

And how were Paul's constant journeyings on sea and land made possible, if no money exchanged hands?

2. It is wrong to LOVE money.

This is because the love of money is the root of all evil. 1 Timothy 6:10.

It leads to nothing but trouble, misery, and sin.

For example:-

Family trouble Proverbs 15:27

Frustration Ecclesiastes 5:10, Isaiah 56:11

Theft Joshua 7:21

Conceit and pride Proverbs 18:23, 28:11, Jeremiah 9:23, 1 Timothy 6:17, James 2:6.

Injustice Proverbs 28:20, Jeremiah 6:13, Acts 16:19, 24:26, 1 Samuel 8:23.

Oppression Genesis 31:41, Micah 2:2, James 5:4, Proverbs 1:10-19

Forgetfulness of God & eternal issues... Deuteronomy 8:13-14, Amos 6:1-6, Luke 12:15-21.

Scoffing against spiritual truths Luke 16:13-14.

Damnation !! Mark 10:17-27, James 5:1-6.

Loss of spiritual judgment 1 Timothy 3:3, 8, Titus 1:7, 1 Peter 5:2

Dead orthodoxy Ezekiel 33:31

Apostasy Mark 4:19. 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 2 Peter 2:15.

Betrayal of Christ Matthew 26:15-16,

The Bible is not exaggerating, then, when it calls the love of money the ROOT of ALL evil!

3. How to know if you are a lover of money.

- Do you think about money? Proverbs 23:7
Do you talk about money? Matthew 12:34-35
Do you like the idea of having lots of it? 1 Timothy 6:9
Do you like the idea of getting money without working for it??

This is one of the chief characteristics of the money-lovers condemned in the Bible
Proverbs 21:6, Jeremiah 17:11. Psalm 15:5 etc...

4. How NOT to be a money-lover.

Put to death all that encourages you to love money. Colossians 3:5.

Practise disciplined contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6, Hebrews 13:5.

Do you give thanks for all that He provides? (Ecclesiastes 5:19).
This gives birth to a sense of gratitude, and trust in God's care.
The love of money cannot live in such an atmosphere.

Consider how uncertain riches are. Proverbs 23:5, 27:24. 1 Timothy 6:17.

Think how foolish it is to be rich in this life ONLY. Psalm 39:6, 49:10, Matthew 6:19, 16:26,
1 Timothy 6:7.

Seek godliness - true riches! Proverbs 10:2, 11:4, 13:7, 15:6, 16-17, Matthew 6:19-21,
1 Timothy 6:6.

Give money away. Proverbs 11:24, Acts 20:35, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Timothy 6:18.

A motto

"Godliness with contentment is GREAT GAIN. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." 1 Timothy 6:6-7.

A prayer

"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me; lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." Proverbs 30:8-9.

Next week: Your Mind.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

7. YOUR MIND.

A spirit of know-nothingness is abroad ("I don't know, and I don't particularly want to"). People do not like using their minds - learning, and thinking things out. Ignorance is no longer regarded as a bad thing.

This spirit of anti-intellectualism is creeping into the churches. Mindless 'Christianity' is with us. It has been forgotten that IGNORANCE IS SIN.

1. Three sorts of ignorance.

The ignorance which is natural to you as a creature.

This is not sinful. Unlike the animals, God created you to think and to know. But you cannot know what God has not revealed. Mortal life is not even long enough to know what can be known. You cannot know the future. God's ways in grace etc..

The sinful ignorance which was yours before you were converted.

Fallen man is blind and deaf to spiritual things. When he is saved, he is renewed in knowledge. He understands the Gospel. Then he applies his mind to examining everything around him in the light of God's Word. Mindlessness is a contradiction of his new nature.

The sinful, ignorance of yourself which you still have.

You can sin, and not know it; and spiritually deteriorate, and be unaware of it. This is culpable ignorance, and closely linked to what follows.

2. The worst sort of ignorance - and its results.

This is IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD - the failure to grasp, fully and clearly, what God has infallibly revealed. This is sin, and its results emphasise this.

It means:

God is not worshipped or loved as He should be.

See John 4:24, and Luke 10:27. Worship of the unknown God is unacceptable, and unintelligible worship forbidden in the NT. God's "Name" is the sum total of all that He is and has done. God's Name cannot be praised by the mindless and ignorant.

Faith is not strengthened.

Faith is inextricably linked to a knowledge of the Word, Hebrews 11:1, Romans 10:17, and involves thinking, Matthew 6:30. Exploits of faith will only return when a knowledge of the Word returns.

Believers are not holy.

How can they be, if they do not know what they are, and what is expected of them? Can they do the right, without knowing the Law? Can they drive Satan away, if they do not know the Word? "Know ye not???" asks the Apostle - Romans 6:3, 16, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 5:6, 6:2-3,9,15,16,19.

The Gospel is not preached.

The Gospel message has a definite content (Romans), and it is this which effects conversions, Romans 10:13-14, 17, 1 Corinthians 1:21. Part of Gospel preaching is to marshal arguments, and to convince the mind. See 2 Corinthians 5:11, Acts 17:2-4, 19:8-10. This cannot be done by those who do not use their minds.

The church is not edified.

Only the Word brings about spiritual maturity, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Those who guide the churches are to know the Word, and be able to teach it. 1 Timothy 3:2, 2 Timothy 2:24. Nothing can be accomplished where the Word is not known.

- Ignorance of the Word spells our ruin. Hosea 4:6.
- Knowledge spells our rescue, provided Psalms 119:34, Matthew 7:24-28, 1 Corinthians 8:1, James 1:22-25, 2:14-26, are kept in mind.
- Knowledge which is thus matched by obedience is rewarded in the way described in John 14:21, 23.

Proverbs 2:1-6.

Next week: Your conscience.

Some Contemporary Issues: Group 2

8. YOUR CONSCIENCE.

* This is a message about, DAILY BEHAVIOUR –

"Would it be right for me as a Christian to do this, or to go there....."

* Second-hand convictions will not do. Too many Christians decide what to do by referring to the traditions and taboos which prevail among their fellow-believers. This approach is condemned in the Word of God. Mark 7:9, 13 Romans 14:3-4, Colossians 2:20-23, Galatians 4:9-11, 4:31-5:1.

* No - we are not slaves accountable to a steward, but sons accountable to God alone (Galatians 4:5).

Only God may dictate to us how to live - nobody else (Romans 14:4-5).

Christ died to set us free, and nobody must therefore be permitted to infringe our liberty (Galatians 5:1).

Nobody may command us to do anything, unless God commands it in Scripture. Nobody.

* So we have terrific liberty as Christians. The fact that this liberty can be abused (Galatians 5:13) is not a reason for stealing it from each other. All God's gifts are dangerous in the wrong hands.

* **The facts are that we may live exactly as we please.**

PROVIDED:

1. **We do not disobey Scripture**

Some things are clearly commanded; others, clearly forbidden. We are not saved by law-keeping (Romans 6:14, 10:4). But right is still right, being saved doesn't alter that. The whole Bible is necessary to know what is right and what is wrong. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

2. **We do not disobey lawful authority.**

The State is to be obeyed, provided it does not violate divine law; and provided it keeps within its own province, and does not meddle in the family, the Church, and my individual walk with God. Romans 13:1-7 etc.

3. We do nothing to hinder our own Christian lives.

Some things are not wrong in them selves, but hinder my spiritual effectiveness, weaken my faith, dampen my zeal, reduce my power to resist temptation, and tend to enslave me. These things must be laid aside. 1 Corinthians 6:12, Hebrews 12:1.

4. We do nothing to stumble our weaker brother.

Some Christians are weak, and we need to support and consider them (Romans 14:1, 15:1, 1 Corinthians 8:9, 11). He is easily tempted and falls. He is weak in faith (Romans 14:1); in knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:7); in conscience (1 Corinthians 8:12). He is unable to grasp the fact that we can enjoy ALL God's gifts without scruples.

We are not to despise him (Romans 14:3), or to destroy him (1 Corinthians 8:11) - that is cause him to fall spiritually (Romans 14:21, 13), or cause him to go against his own conscience (Romans 14:14). We may sometimes need to hurt his feelings, and should not be put off trying to instruct his conscience.

He is, in turn, not to pass judgment on us (Romans 14:3), and to consider we are less sincere in following the Lord (14:6). Let both consider Romans 14:9-12.

5. We do those .things which build up Christ's , Body.

We are not only free individuals, but members, of a body. We are to seek each other's benefit (Galatians 5:13, 1 Corinthians 10:23, Romans 13:10). We do not ask of this thing "How can I enjoy it?" but "How may I use it to build up the Lord's people?"

6. We do nothing to hinder the spread of the Gospel.

We are free. But we are to be prepared to forgo our freedom, if doing that will serve the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:12, 19, 10:33). We are not bound to a particular culture, but we may choose to observe it carefully, if doing so will serve the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:22).

7. We do everything to God's glory.

See 1 Corinthians 10:31. This is what our freedom is for. AS we exercise our liberty, we are to carry ourselves as men and women actively seeking to glorify our Father in heaven. If we are to do a thing, we must be able to do it to His glory. It must be capable of being consecrated to HIM!

Next week: Mental Illness.
