

# THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

**“...Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”-1King 22:16**

A weekly publication of the Jefferson City Church of Christ, Jefferson City, MO

January 25, 2009



## **What Have You Learned Since You Picked Up Your Bible? Test “your Bible Knowledge.”**

**1. God promised Abraham that one of his sons would be the father of twelve princes; namely:**

- a. Isaac
- b. Ishmael
- c. Mamre
- d. A son as yet unnamed

{Genesis 17:20}

**2. The Israelites was not specifically forbidden to:**

- a. Go back to fetch a forgotten sheaf
- b. Go over the boughs of their olive trees after beating them
- c. Glean their vineyards after gathering its grapes
- d. Milk the cow after the first pail was full

{Deuteronomy 24:19-22}

**3. The mother of Jabez gave him that name because:**

- a. He was a surprise
- b. The Lord told her to
- c. She bore him in sorrow
- d. There was a famine in the world

{1 Chronicles 4:9}

**4. He who loves silver will not be satisfied with:**

- a. Silver
- b. Strong love
- c. Power
- d. The most Knowledge

{Ecclesiastes 5:10}

-Fred Singleton

### **Distractions**

The boy is struggling to do his homework because he has one eye on the television where his favorite team is playing. The girl is having difficulty reading her assignment because she is continually glancing up to see if that cute boy is looking at her. The husband does not hear his wife because he is busy reading the paper. The wife takes her eye off the road while driving when she notices the billboard advertising a gigantic sale.

Distractions are an every day part of our lives. They can keep us from meaningful relationships or from

completing a task. Sometimes distractions even put us in danger.

We can be distracted in spiritual matters as well. Elders, for example, can become so involved in planning and constructing a new building that the spiritual needs of the congregation are put on hold. They can pay so much attention to the congregational finances that they do not have time to visit the flock. Preachers can get so absorbed in preparing for their sermons, that the spiritual needs of their own family are overlooked. Members can be so lost in thought over the latest business deal or what they plan to eat for dinner that they pay little attention to the sermon. We can be so entertained by the baby in the pew in front of us that we fail to properly partake of the Lord’s Supper. We can become so involved in speaking with our close friends after services that we ignore our visitors or fail to realize that another member is hurting and needs us. We can have every intention of calling that sick brother or that weak sister who was announced, but when we get home, we become involved in other things and forget. We can desire to increase our time in prayer but then allow the day-to-day cares of life to get in our way. We can plan to spend more time in Bible study each evening but when we get home, we sit down, turn on the television, and space out until we realize that it is time to go to bed.

Can you see how Satan uses distractions to take us away from serving God as we should? Oh yes, we may have the best intentions. Our motives may be pure. But somehow we can become distracted and fail to follow through. And possibly even making matters worse, we forgive ourselves of this so easily. After all, our intentions and motives were good, we just got distracted and failed to complete the task. If you think about it for a moment, what would your boss say if you regularly told him that you intended to get your work done but just kept being distracted?

How can we keep from becoming distracted? One suggestion is to write things down. For example, when an announcement is made that someone is sick, make a note to include them in your prayers. Some people effectively use “prayer journals” where they write down specific people or things about which to pray. This

also helps in remembering to thank God when those prayers have been answered. Laying a note by your phone may help you to remember to call another member to tell them that you missed him in worship services. Some Christians take notes during the sermon. This helps them to concentrate on the lesson and also may provide a basis for further study during the week. During the Lord's Supper, some focus on pertinent passages to ensure they are properly partaking. Some place small notes around their house or office reminding them of a scripture they intend to memorize. Some people include spiritually-related tasks on their daily "To Do List." Others even write down specific goals for improving their walk with God, break down those goals into actionable tasks, and place these tasks on their daily calendars to work toward completion. It's all about focus.

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves breakthrough and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Matt 6:19-21). Let each of us focus on our eternal goal. - Terry Bennett

**"KNOW NOW THE CERTAINTY OF THE WORDS OF TRUTH" Prov 22:2**

### **Question: Should Christians Keep the Sabbath?**

In Exodus 20:8-11 read: **"8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."**

To help us get a good understanding of the question above lets first address the fact that the book of Exodus was written by Moses and was written to the Jewish nation. Knowing such vital information helps us to understand the periods of Bible history and aids us in unraveling much of the religious error that lingers today.

"Sabbath keeping" belonged to the Jewish dispensation, a period in time when God dealt with the Jewish people under the leadership of Moses. For the

Sabbath to be binding today, the Law of Moses would have to be binding.

The New Testament reveals that the Law of Moses has been done away; Col 2:14 *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*

The command to keep the Sabbath was given to fleshly Israel (Ex 20:1-2, 31:12-13, 16-17; Deut 4:8; 5:1-3, 6, 15.) Read the above passages, and ask yourself, were you among those who were brought out of Egypt? Do you perform any work on the Sabbath (Exod 35:1-3; Num 15:32-36), or offer burnt offerings (Num 28:9-10)? Do you kindle a fire (Exod 35:3), and do you travel from your home on the Sabbath, if in fact the Sabbath is still binding?

Keeping the Sabbath day makes one *"a debtor to keep the whole law"* (Gal. 5:3). If Christians are to keep the Sabbath, which was a part of the Old Testament Law, should they burn incense, offer animal sacrifices, and go to Jerusalem to worship three times in a year?

The answer to the above question is, "NO!" The first century Christians were never commanded to keep the Sabbath or any part of the Law of Moses. We live under the **"law Of Christ"** and we are bound to keep the **"first day of the week"** (Acts 20:7; 1Cor 16:1-2).

-Fred Singleton

**Answers 1.b 2.d 3.c 4.a**

### **SUBMITTING TO THE SUPREME AUTHORITY**



Father; you are the Supreme Authority, and man must recognize that. Father you are a God of order, a God of structure that will support healthy relationships and maintain harmony among your people. Father, my God, I surrender all to Thee, that I might find protection and dwell in the secret place of the highest God.

Father may Your will be done in my life that I may bring glory to your Holy name. Father I will bind my mind to the mind of Christ your only begotten Son; obedience is far better than sacrifice, submitting to Your law is far better than all the riches that the world could offer. To You, the Supreme Authority, I submit. Amen

-Fred Singleton