

Scriptural Discipline

The Call to Holiness

PALM SPRINGS BIBLE SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 2014

Why this topic?

It is often studied while in the middle of a fire!

Frequently misunderstood

Often misapplied

Considered reactively

Discipline considered without context of all aspects

Some question if it will work – tendency to rely on personal preferences or gut feel

We **CANNOT** afford to be unclear as we face the Last Days

Classes

The Call to Holiness

Forgiveness

Mutual Responsibility

Rebuke, Correction,
Withdrawal

Deliver Unto Satan and
Restoration

Warnings for the Last Days

Conscience seared

Intoxication with the cares of this life

Asleep!

Covetousness

Giving heed to
seducing spirits

Perilous times

Scoffers, walking after own
lusts

Unholy

incontinent (without self
control)

False teachers

Lovers of own
selves

Probable in Today's Ecclesias?

Tumbling ecclesial attendance and overall engagement
(30-40% choose to stay home each Sunday!)

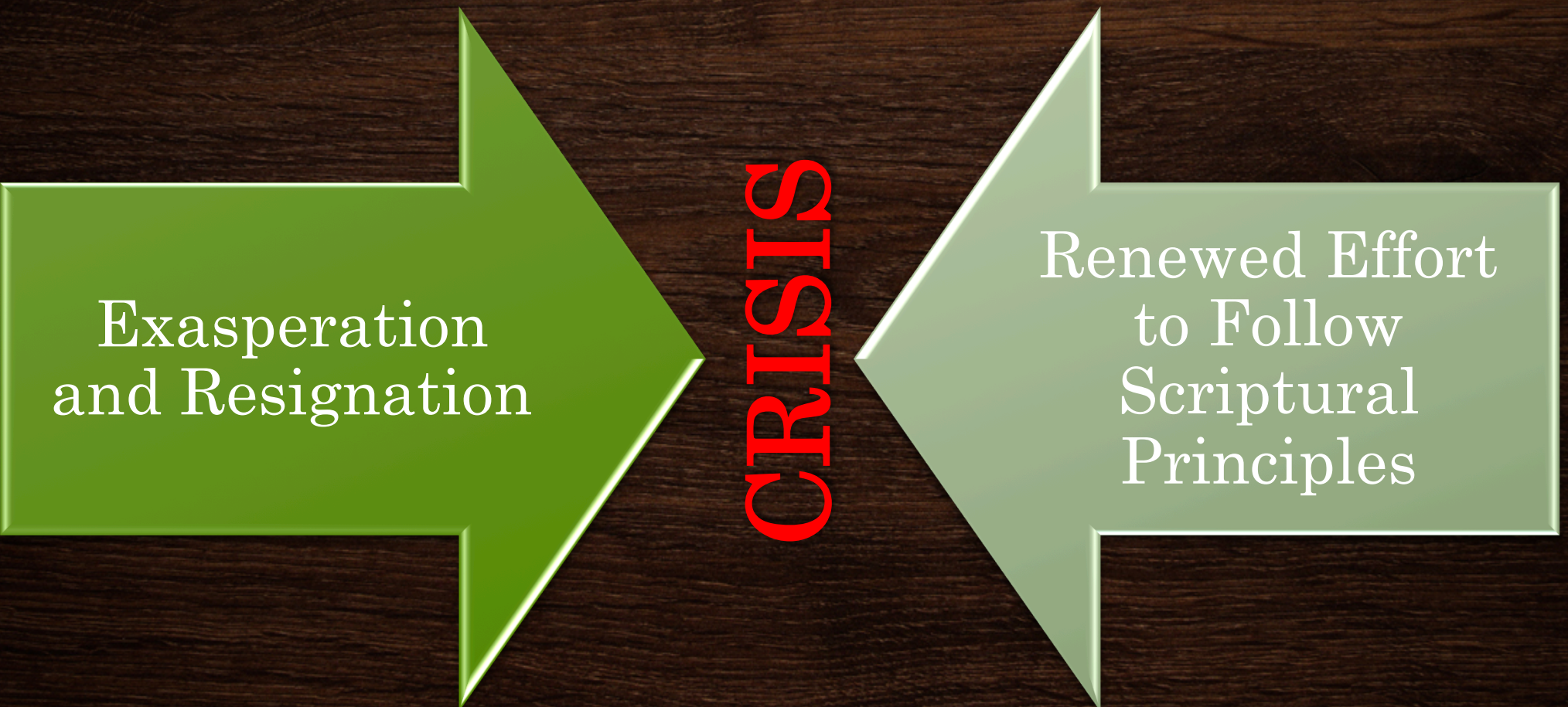
Spiritual jadedness and permissiveness about sin

Excessive involvement in the world

Declining skill and understanding of the Word

A decreased commitment to holiness and to define what
holiness is in a world with completely opposite views

What is Our Response?



Exasperation
and Resignation

CRISIS

Renewed Effort
to Follow
Scriptural
Principles

Never has there been a time more critical for ecclesias to stand guard in the battle against sin!

s between him and God

It's none of my business

Disfellowshipping is
so unloving

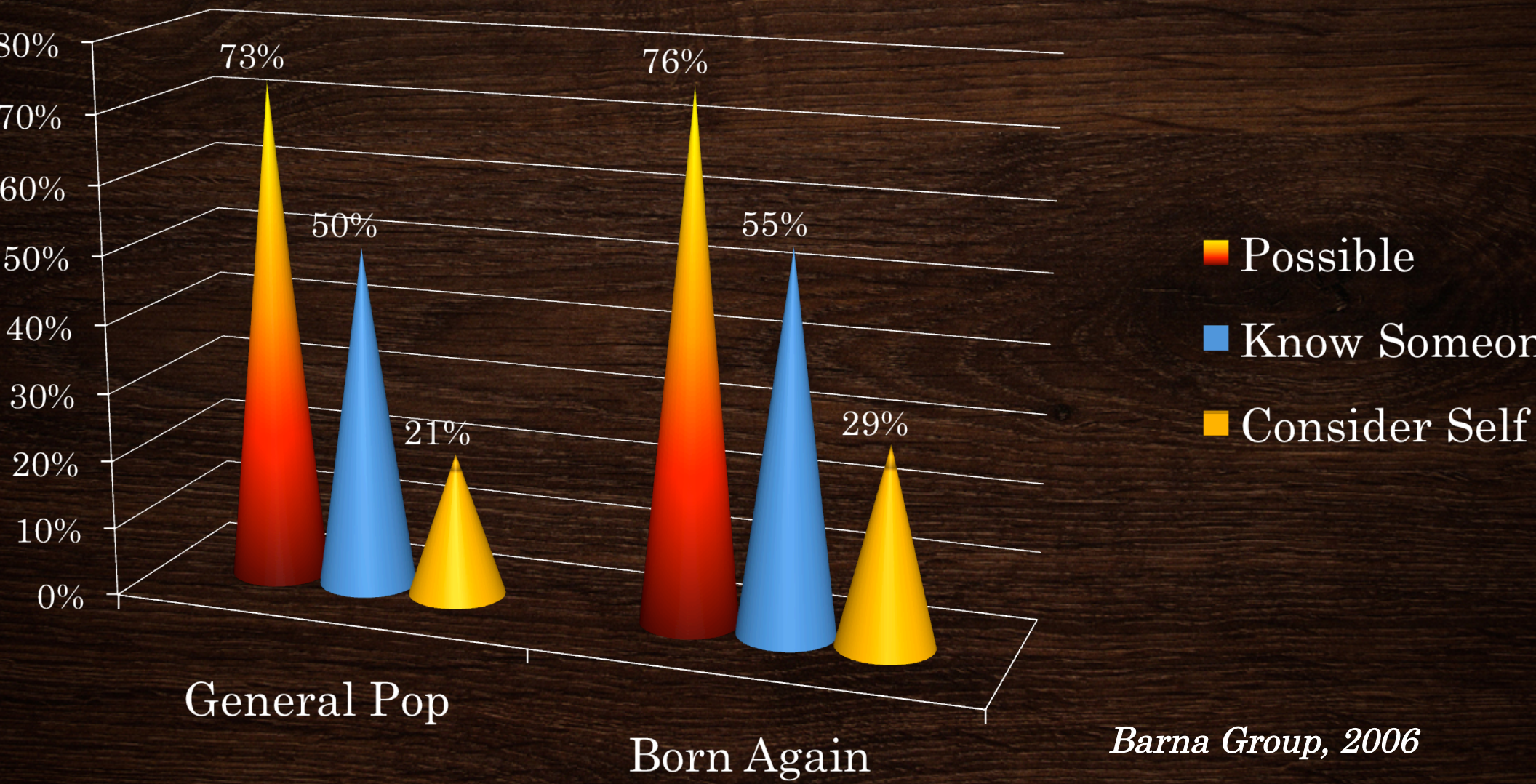
Who are we to judge?

Too harsh!

Discipline will just drive
him away!

Our job is to love, not rebuke

Is Holiness Attainable?



Holiness As A Life Goal

And if you will here stop and ask yourself, why are you not as pious as the primitive Christians were, your own heart will tell you, that it is not through ignorance, nor inability, *but purely because you have not intended it.* You observe the same Sunday-keeping that they did, and you are strict in it, because it is your full intention to be so. And when you have this intention to please God in all your actions, as the happiest and best thing in the world, you will find in you as great an aversion to anything that is vain and impertinent in common, whether of business or pleasure, as you now have to anything that is profane.”

A SERIOUS CALL
TO A DEVOUT
& HOLY LIFE



WILLIAM LAW

1686-1761
Church of England

Holiness Is Not An Abstract,
Unattainable Goal.

It Is An Expectation!

The Expectation Of Holiness

“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, **Ye shall be holy**: for I the LORD **your God *am* holy.**”

Leviticus 19:2

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; **for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.**”

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Righteousness Leads To Holiness

...so now offer yourselves as slaves to **righteousness** (*dikaiosismos*)
leading to **holiness** (*hagiasmos*).”

Romans 6:19 (NIV)

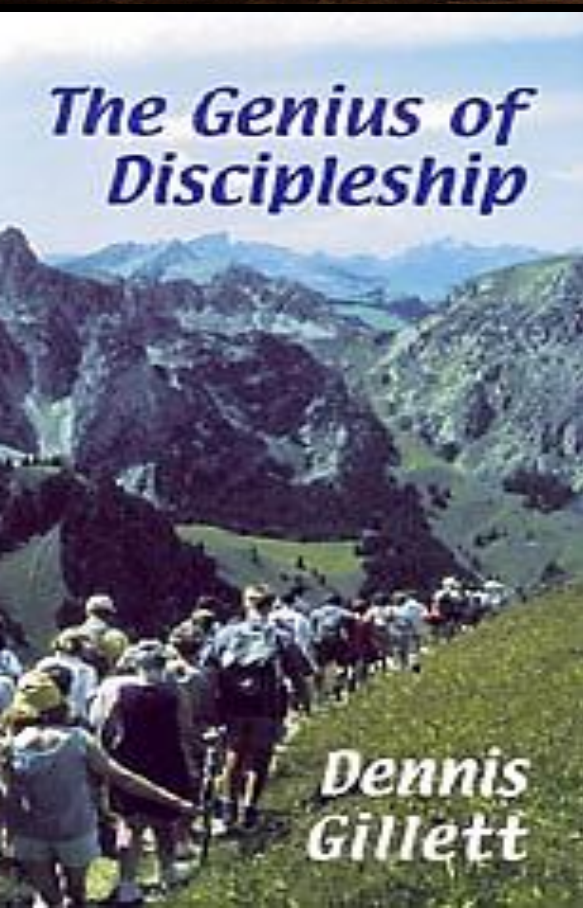
The commitment to righteous behaviors and holiness is the act of a servant
as an offering to God. When we make this offering, it leads us to holiness.

Help From The Hebrew/Greek

righteousness” – Greek is *dikaiosune* – the character or quality of being right or just. In old English, was **rightwiseness.**”

God desires righteous behavior, but He also expects them to be a manifestation of one's character – **holiness.**

Righteousness and Holiness



“The essential ingredient of **righteousness** and **holiness** is the same, that is rightness, but the difference lies in the sphere of operation. ... righteousness is rightness of conduct; holiness is rightness of character.”

But, what IS righteousness today?

What does it look like?

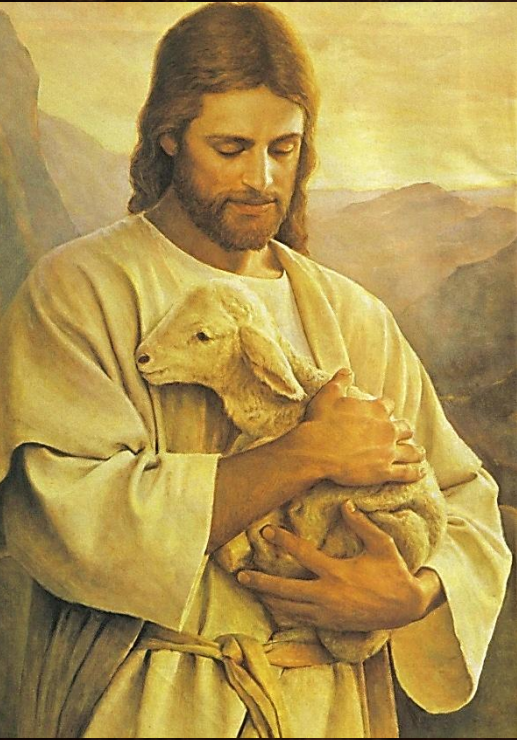


Miasma Infecting the Ecclesias?



- It is about me, not God.
- “I am accountable only to God”
- Rejection of ecclesial authority
- No “moral absolutes”
- Mind your own business – don’t judge
- Seeking social change in this current world
- Progressive difficulty making unpopular stands for righteousness

A Growing Misrepresentation of Jesus



While Jesus exhibited great toleration, he also...

- Strongly rebuked Jewish leaders
- Overthrew moneychangers in Temple court
- Rebuked Peter before all
- Publically corrected Thomas
- Corrected his disciples for little faith, not understanding, unwillingness to submit

Righteousness Defined Generationally



“Resolved that in order to maintain high standard of ecclesial life as understood from the Scriptures, the Ecclesia expresses its definite disapproval of the practice of **attending theatres, picture shows and collective dancing** in homes or elsewhere, and members of the Ecclesia should not countenance such practices.”

*Los Angeles Ecclesia,
June 25, 1935*

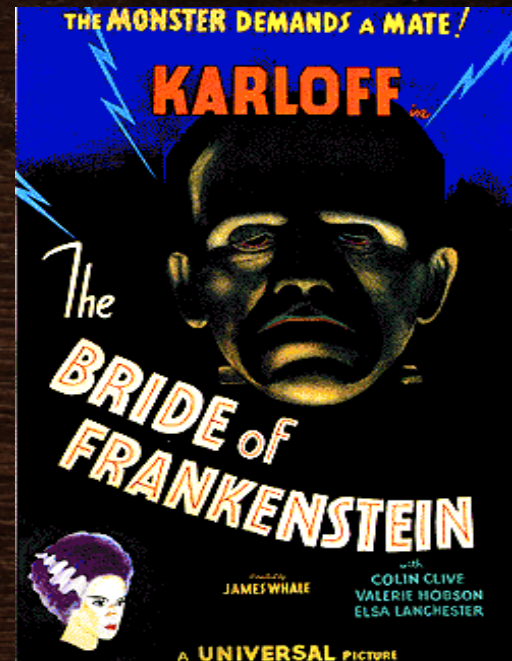
What Were Those 1935 Movies?

Mutiny on the Bounty

David Copperfield

A Night at the Opera (Marx Brothers)

Bride of Frankenstein



the Christadelphian, December 2009

This raises the question of whether the Bible has to be interpreted in each generation, or whether its message is time

The question is whether it has a message for this age, or is simply a historical account of past times. There is no halfway house available to answer this question, but just a straightforward choice. The scriptures – all of them – either apply to men and women today, or they are just quaint tales from earlier years. We are not free to pick and choose...”

Understanding Discipline

We fundamentally accept that Scriptural teachings on moral behavior are 100% relevant for today!

We live in a world of Humanism that eschews correction and accountability - it is diametrically opposed to Scriptural teaching

Jesus demonstrates love by correcting, rebuking and chastening – because his objective is to save us into his Kingdom

By extension, as believers and as an ecclesia, we must see rebuke, chastening, correction as a fully valid way to express our love to one another

Three Forms of Scriptural Discipline

Self-examination - this must be effectively operating for all Saints. If we judge ourselves, we would not be judged!

The Lord's chastening - designed to shake us out of complacency and to re-establish self-examination. This is where we participate in serving both our Lord and our brother.

Final judgment - which will bring condemnation on those who do not judge themselves

How It Is Righteousness Determined?

Study of the Word of God

Prayerful meditation

Frank discussion among each other

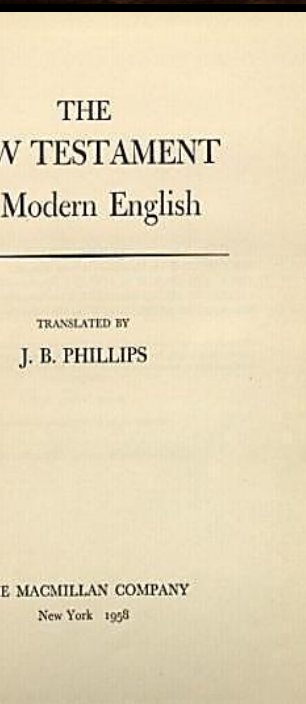
Determining spiritual principles

Identifying threats

Determining what will put our eternal life at risk



An Example - Called to “Thorough” Purity



“God’s plan is to make **you holy**, and that entails first of all a **clean cut with sexual immorality**.

....

The calling of God is not to impurity **but to the most thorough purity**, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of man’s ruling but of God’s command.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 JBP

On the table for discussion: Internet use, dress and modesty, entertainment choices...

Giving up on Holiness!

Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a nasty thought! We, who have died to sin—how could we live in it a moment longer?”

Romans 6:1-2 (JBP)

Holiness is a Godly Requirement!

“Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; *without holiness no one will see the Lord.*”

Hebrews 12:12-14 (NIV)



Windows

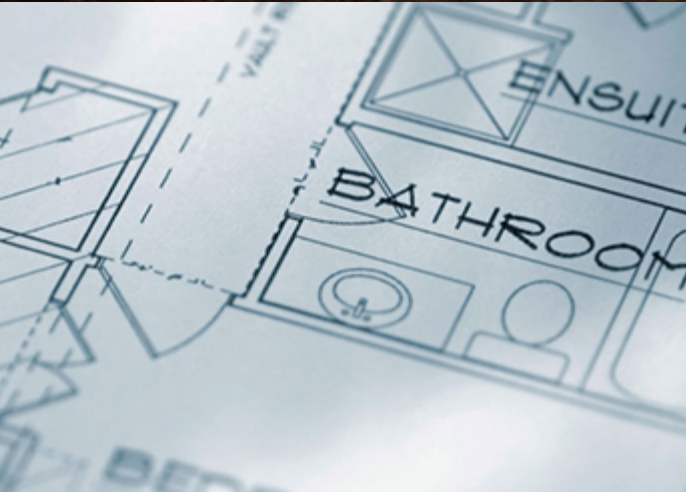
Fatal exception 0E has occurred at 0028:C0011E36 in UKD VMH(01) + 0E36. The current application will be terminated.

Press any key to terminate the current application.
Press CTRL+ALT+DEL again to restart your computer. You will
lose any unsaved information in all applications.

Press any key to continue _



A Renovated Mind



“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:2

anakinōsis - Thayer Definition: a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better

Not Just About “Thou Shalt Not’s”

When we participate in the lusts of the flesh – **WE** pay a great price – it stunts/corrupts our minds of spiritual development

Abstaining from sin permits the healing and renovation of the mind

Our spiritual mind can progressively operate and process as intended

It grants us a level of peace that we cannot have while engaged in fleshly lusts

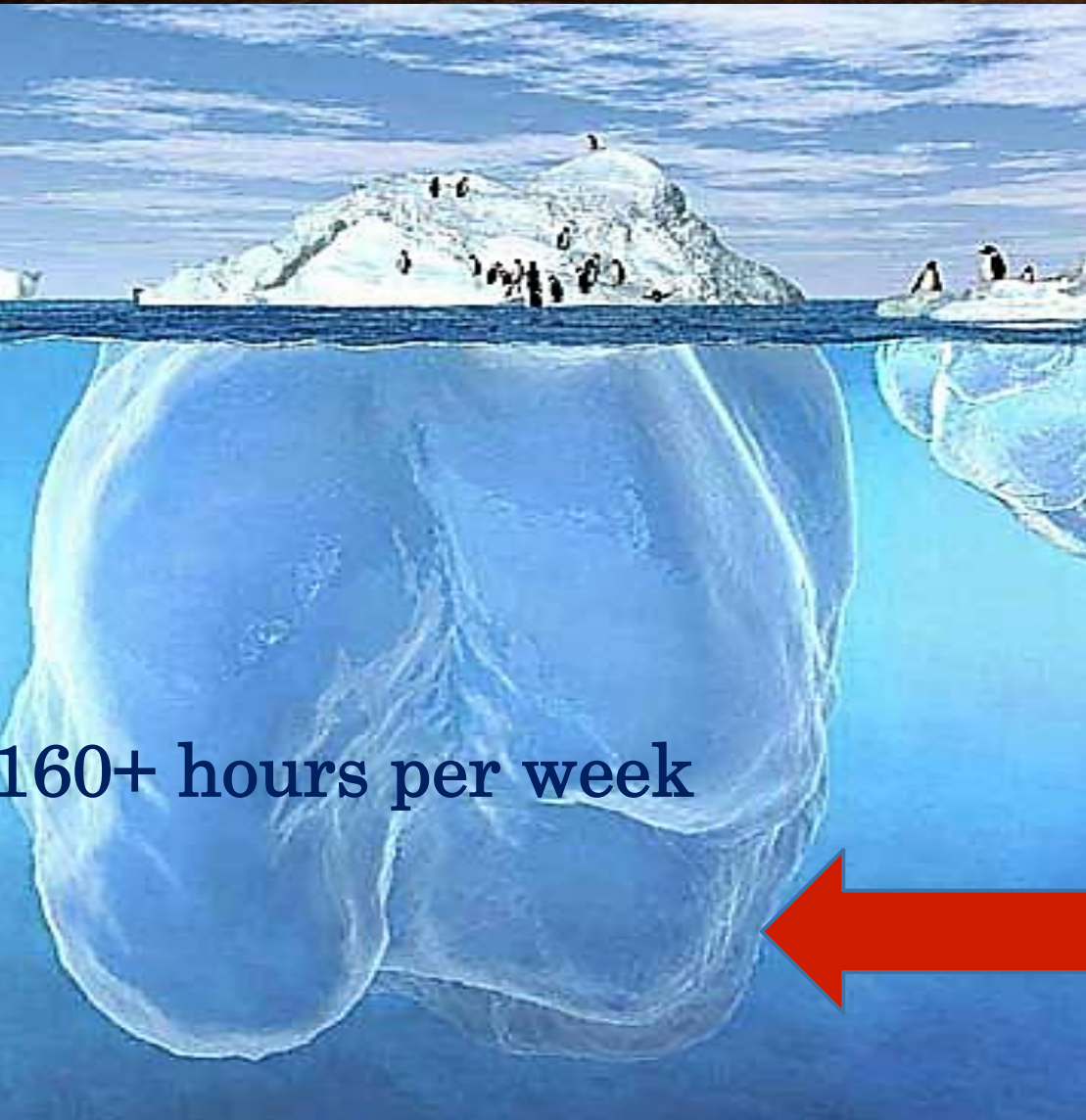
The embedded Word can flourish and we are prepared unto every good work

Daily Battle Against Sin



Seen and Unseen

3-4 hours per week



160+ hours per week

Religious Behavior

(Everyone sees what's in the open
it is what we all observe)

Spiritual Behavior

(May be seen in our religious
but generally private or hidden
This is where the Lord works with
us!)

This is where we feel the
greatest need, and where we
tend to NOT invite others to
help in time of need.

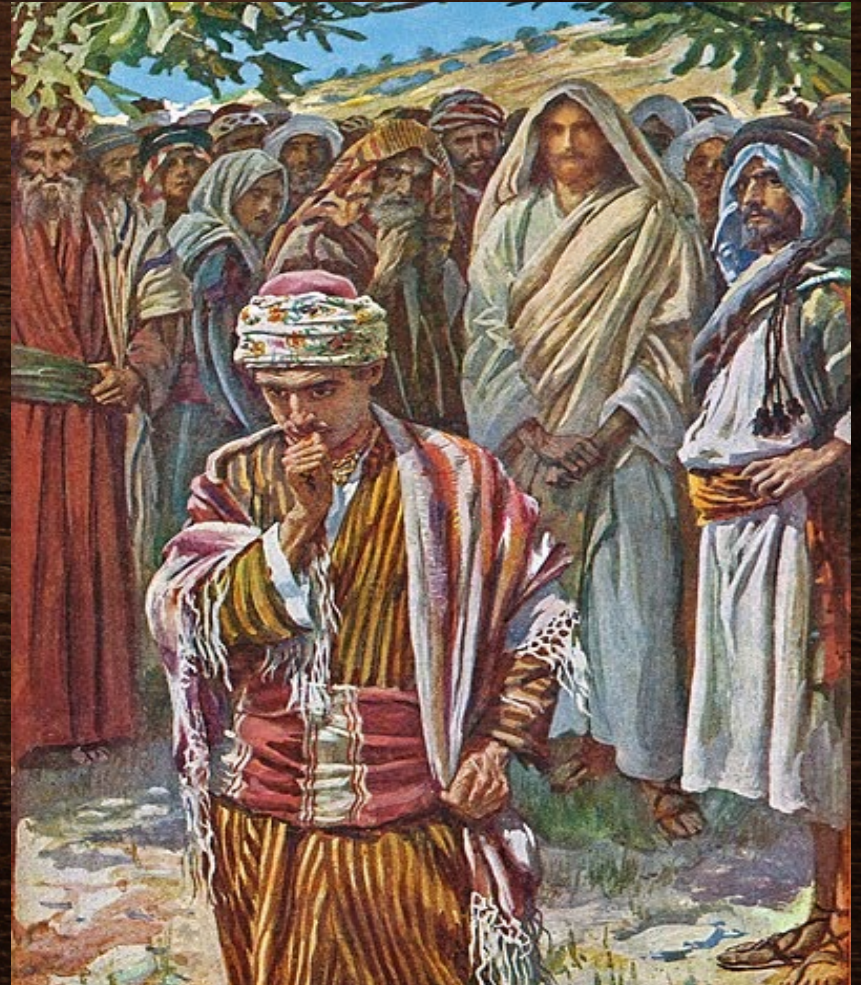
ologies – Focused on What's Seen



- This faithful sister rarely missed meeting for more than sixty years, even when suffering in poor health
- Bro. XYZ was a leader in our area, an important committee member
- He served for more than 45 years as recording brother
- She saw three generations of her family accept the Truth
- He was an outstanding scholar in our community

Jesus Works Below the Water Line

Matthew 19:20-22



Distinguish Holiness

And the LORD spake unto Aaron,
saying, Do not drink wine nor strong
drink,... lest ye die: ...
and that ye may **put difference**
between holy and unholy, and
between unclean and clean...

Leviticus 10:8-11



Role of the Priests

“.... that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, *and did turn many away from iniquity*. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”

Malachi 2:4-7

Role Of The High Priest

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: who can have **compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way**; for that **he himself also is compassed with infirmity**. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.”

Hebrews 5:1-3



Compare to James 5

brethren, if any of you do err (ESV – “wanders”) from the truth, **convert** him; Let him know, that he which **converts** the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall bring forth a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20

The role described in the ecclesia amongst brethren is likened to the work of the priest. It is about **saving, converting** from error and **hiding** a multitude of sins.

Confess, Pray for One Another!

Confess your **faults** one to another, and **pray** one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James 5:16

aptōma - a *side slip* (*lapse* or *deviation*), that is, (unintentional or (willful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass. This is a picture of a person who is **struggling with sin**, NOT one who is rebellious.

Accustomed To Praying For



But, Do We Pray For Righteousness?



Prayer Fellowship

Praying with my brother that he be able to overcome a **weakness**
Praying that one who is facing doubts will be **strengthened**
Praying to God for my brother to be forgiven as he attempts to
repent
Requesting others in praying **for me** as I face a trying time

D. Appleton, 1979, The Christadelphian

he practice of **mutual confession** could also be more widely used amongst us with advantage. It is right that we should take steps to **concile** ourselves with those whom we may have wronged and be humble enough to take the initiative even when the fault may not be all on our side. There should also be willingness to disclose our particular difficulties and weaknesses to someone whose spiritual standing we acknowledge, with the object of **obtaining help which such confession can bring to us**. To act in this way may only bring us nearer to that ideal of “righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Corruption of Confession



Joseph Priestley
History of the
Corruptions of
Christianity, 1782

“It was also the custom of the primitive church to require those who had been excommunicated, to **confess their sins** before re-admission to its privileges..... conscientious persons voluntarily confessed their private sins to priests, possessing their confidence. Thence it was **soon imposed as a duty**, and the practice of confession, so simple and innocent in its beginning, afterwards reached the high pitch, which it now holds in the Catholic church.”

Catholicism and Indulgences

ously reading or listening to Sacred Scripture for at least half an hour.

doration of Jesus in the Eucharist for at least half an hour.

ne pious exercise of the Stations of the Cross.

ecitation of the Rosary in a church or oratory, or in a family, a religious community, an association of the faithful

ceiving, even by radio or television, the blessing given by the Pope (to the city of Rome and to the world).

taking part devoutly in the celebration of a day devoted on a world level to a particular religious purpose. Under this heading come the annual celebrations such as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, and occasional celebrations such as World Youth Day

taking part for at least three full days in a spiritual retreat.

taking part in some functions during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity including its conclusion.

Importance to Our Discussion

- Repentance is about moving forward to “sin no more”
- The idea of **humanly-sanctioned punishment** for sin in this life for repented sins is rooted in the errors of the Catholicism and not of God
- Take a look at your own ecclesial practices regarding waiting periods to prove sincerity of repentance or certain unscriptural sanctions about their activities and service in the ecclesia

Robert Roberts, 1892

confess your faults one to another.” Ah, brethren, there is more in those words than appears on the first reading of them. **Are we not prone to hide our faults from one another?** We would hide them from ourselves. Yea, we would even seek to hide them from the Lord. **Whoever hides his faults is not strengthened thereby.** Whoever confesses his faults one to another gathers to himself great strength thereby, for he then obeys the command, hath the prayers of all the brethren that the Lord may forgive and strengthen him against his faults, **and the self-comfort of having drawn around him the supporting strength of the brethren.**

Robert Roberts, 1892

An open, confessed fault, gives relief to a burdened heart.... The
confession of our faults one to another, brethren,

unifies and strengthens the bond of brotherly love,

opens the door to estrangements,

deepens and broadens our sympathies

lays bare the infirmities of our weak nature

bars out many evils

shows us how imperative it is that we should bind ourselves together
leaning upon the Lord ...”

(members added)

Message for Us

The ecclesia is designed to be a place for confession – a place where dealing with real, painful sins and weakness is part of the “culture.”

We must feel safe by sharing our weaknesses and personal temptations

We need to engage our brothers and sisters in praying for us and providing real help

We are **NOT** to be alone on an island!

Scriptural Discipline

We acknowledge that holiness now is the Divine expectation

Our community has never survived solely by emphasizing doctrine

Holiness has always been a key to success and the blessing of the endeavors of God's people

As a community, we must be watchmen for one another, hating even "the garment spotted by the flesh."

Scriptural discipline is an expression of the love of God, not wanting any to be lost – and we all must share in it. **IT IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMITTED DEVOTIONS OF OUR LOVE.**

Next Class

Forgiveness