

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

9 23 25 V1n20 DEADLY PRIDE vs Humility!

“The worship and the ‘gods’ to which men are faithful evolve out of their own hearts, please their own nature, and make no demands out of harmony with their own carnal desires. Whenever you find people rejecting Divine revelation it is not because they did not understand what God set forth but because they did but were unwilling to humble themselves and obey God.” (Edited from, G. Campbell Morgan, commentary on Jeremiah)

Today in all the issues of life and living, the question I face is — shall I humble myself and yield to the Word of God or shall I lean to my own understanding, worship my traditions, exalting my human reasoning, which is pride?

FOR EXAMPLE: GENESIS 2:16-17 records God’s word to Adam and Eve as to what they could and could not eat. BUT they listened to satan and leaned to their own understanding! LATER, Cain rejected God’s way and came up with his own way to worship. And Cain got angry when HIS IDEA about worship was rejected!

EVEN TO THIS DAY, multitudes are fiercely loyal to manmade worship ideas; and get angry if their ideas are challenged!

In the days of Moses: While Moses was meeting with God the people of Israel wanted grand emotion-filled, fun-filled worship. **They** despised the pure Word of God. **They engaged 'Pastor' Aaron** to help them worship in the way that pleased them. **They had a great worship service, sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play! (Ex. 32:6)**

And so, with us, EVERY YEAR, the masses love/worship Man-made holidays; and shamelessly import them into Christianity. Why? Mankind loves and favors feel-good traditions of their creation.

In addition, multitudes of sincere folk simply **believe and do as they are told, rather than** being 'believer priests' who personally search out and judge matters by the Word of God. Furthermore, there is great pride in grand PRODUCTIONS. Tragically, the masses exit from these worship services, sit down to eat and drink and rise up to play **still wedded to the world.**

AT THE SAME TIME, FOR MULTITUDES, Glorifying in the Cross, following in the steps of Jesus is not even on the radar screen!

EVEN SO, the Apostle Paul, **gloried in and was daily transformed by the Cross and the Resurrection!**
His testimony?

"I am crucified with Christ: never the less I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20) "... God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the CROSS of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world!" (Gal 6:14, Phillips)

WHAT THIS MEANS IS — THE GREATEST BATTLE we have is between Humility vs. Pride! QUESTION: In every issue of life, shall I [in Humility] live by 'every word that proceeds from the mouth of God' [JUST LIKE JESUS DID!]... or shall I [in Pride] 'lean to my own understanding [JUST LIKE ADAM and EVE, Cain, Israel, and modern Christendom?]'

IT MAY SOUND SURPRISING, but the humility we desperately need is MODELED by God HIMSELF!

*"Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, **who humbleth Himself** to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!" (Psalm 113:5-6)*

*"...Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2b-8)*

THEREFORE, we should not be surprised at this: *“Thus saith the LORD, ... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor (**he who is humble**) and of **a contrite spirit**, and **trembleth at My Word**.”* (Isaiah 66:1 a, 2b)

[Many TREMBLE at the thought of displeasing the traditions of men! WHAT/WHO causes us to tremble, will determine direction and destiny!]

Humility in our heart and expressed in our life brings the approval of God! Well, of course— for the GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD is humble. He is the supreme model of humility!

“He Himself is uncreated, eternal, and utterly faultless. He Himself dwells in unapproachable light, He is mighty, glorious, and perfect in beauty and splendour, omniscient— No one and nothing can compare to Him.

He is the only one qualified to be proud!”

And yet, He is humble: *“Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, who humbleth Himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!”* (Ps. 113:5-6)

This is glorious truth:

God Himself is willing to associate with all sorts of people! He is willing to adopt them, [US!], into His family! Amazingly, Almighty God sent His Son JESUS to this earth; and JESUS became the best friend a sinner ever had! Jesus HUMBLLED

HIMSELF all the way to the cross! (Philippians 2: 1-8) God is so very humble— His strength, which is beyond measure, is under holy control!

[Am I by grace walking IN HIS STEPS!!?]

When God sent Jesus into the world, He could have arranged for him to be born in Caesar's palace, or at least in the house of a nobleman. But no, God sent His Son, who is God the Son, into the world to be born in an animal's feeding trough. That's what the word "manger" actually means. (That was the place ordained for the Son of God when He came to earth!)

But the main point is that **Isaiah 66:2b is no surprise!** For God Himself is the source and the Chief Example of humility!

THEREFORE: Let us hear the Word of the LORD: ***"This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My Word."*** Or as James 4:6 tells us, ***"God ... gives grace to the humble."***

✓ **BEING 'CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST' [the way of Humility] is not expressed in man-made worship rituals; but in daily living where I die to myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus!**

HOW DOES ALL THIS WORK OUT IN DAILY LIVING?

QUESTION: WHAT DO I NEED HELP WITH TODAY? “LORD, I need help with my spouse! You would not believe what he/she is doing, how he/she is acting toward me!”

Based upon Scripture, I can expect the following application from the Holy Spirit to such a request: **“Your request is full of pride. You are confessing the sin of another and excusing your own sin; instead of being broken over and repenting of your own sin! God resists the proud. God will resist you!”**

WHAT DO WE NEED HELP WITH TODAY? “LORD, we want to have the grandest of all worship celebrations so as to draw crowds and advance YOUR cause! ... it is true that this is all our creation— but we are doing it for YOU!!”

Based upon Scripture, I can expect the Holy Spirit to point me to Scripture, revealing to me this reality: “YOU MAY BE SINCERE, but your request is full of pride. No one in the New Testament EVER used any sort of religious productions to go forward in the building of the Church that JESUS BUILDS. Just read and follow what I have already revealed in Acts and all the Epistles and especially The Revelation! In these pages you will find the way of HUMILITY. Pride builds a grand harlot. My church can only be built by humility. That which I don’t plant, I will root up in the last day.”

ANOTHER PRAYS, “O GOD, be merciful to me. I have sinned. I have failed to manifest the LORD JESUS CHRIST to my spouse, to my neighbors, etc.!” **Surely, we can hear God’s reply to**

such a humble prayer: "I GIVE GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. I WILL GIVE YOU GRACE!"

A CRITICAL BOTTOM LINE: As one brother has said,
 "At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship— **PRIDE IS OUR GREATEST ENEMY AND HUMILITY IS OUR GREATEST FRIEND!**"

GOD hates all sin! **But sometimes God puts a "star" by certain sins.** GOD has a special hatred for pride: Prov. 6:16-19; Prov. 8:13; Prov. 16:5. **These verses are plain— GOD HATES PRIDE.**

Pride is self-glorification.

Pride robs God of glory.

PRIDE slanders the character of God.

BUT GOD NOT ONLY HATES PRIDE—

HE OPPOSES THE PROUD: James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

HERE IS A CONTRAST BETWEEN

A proud man vs. A humble man: Luke 18:9-14

Proud People have their focus on their grand man-made religious traditions and on the real or imagined failures of others. Humble People are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need and the Holy Spirit will lead them in God focused worship.

The Pharisee went to the temple to pray and he began to list all the sins that he did not commit. He thanked God that he was not like the publican. Moreover, the Pharisee made sure that he told all the "good" things that he did. He loved and was deeply loyal to his religion. **This Pharisee was a proud man,** confident in his own righteousness... The Pharisee was ALSO focused on what an evil, sinful man the tax collector was...!

The publican was so broken he could not even look up to heaven. He was overwhelmed with his own spiritual need in light of God's holiness. The tax collector knew that compared to God's righteousness he was nothing! **All he could say was "Have mercy on me a sinner."**

In the end we see that the publican is the one who left justified before God. He was truly broken before God. He recognized his own spiritual need for forgiveness.

AND AS TO CHURCH:

Two churches are being built in the world today. One is being built by pride and one is being built by humility. One appears very impressive. The other is often oppressed and persecuted. However, the one being built by pride will be destroyed; while the one being built by humility will be exalted to the MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB! (Rev. 17-19)

QUESTION: Where do you ... WHERE DO I ... fit in this example?

AM I ... Are you like the Pharisee, loyal to man-made religious tradition over the revealed ways of God?

AM I... Are you focused on the real or imagined failures of another person?

AM I... Are you broken and humble, one who cries out for mercy and gives mercy?

✓ **MORE APPLICATION:**

In homes, churches and at work— Many are quite willing to serve so long as everything suits them, pleases them and if they are given ego stroking motivation.

This is but pride on parade!

- ✓ In contrast the humble servant of Jesus Christ is just honored to serve, needs no pampering, does not have to be handled with kid gloves, does not get feelings hurt—JUST KEEPS ON SERVING, 'WASHING FEET' even if no one else does!

- ✓ Humility is not an option. It's the life to which every believer has been called— **a life of WALKING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS who is the greatest example of true humility!**

- ✓ Doubtless, we all have need to advance in this Christ like grace! Let it be so!

INDEED, WE ALL HAVE A TWO-FOLD GREAT NEED:

(1) MORTIFY OUR PRIDE!

(2) CULTIVATE HUMILITY! How? “Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!” (Gal. 5:16)

THUS: “Fill your affections with the cross of Christ that there may be no room for sin!” (John Owen)

“There is only one thing I know of that crushes me to the ground and humiliates me to the dust, and that is to look at the Son of God, and especially contemplate the cross. ***When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*** Nothing else can do it. When I see that I am a sinner... that nothing but the Son of God on the cross can save me, I’m humbled to the dust... **Nothing but the cross can give us this spirit of humility!**” (M. Lloyd-Jones)

“**All of us** have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness **until** we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there at the foot of the Cross that we shrink to our true size.” (John Stott) **“Abide close to the cross, and search the mystery of His wounds!”** (C.H. Spurgeon)

Grace to all in Christ! / James Bell /
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday Services, September, 28th
Sunday School @ 9:30am; classes all ages

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:45am

MONTHLY SPECIAL MEETINGS:

September 28— EVENING WORSHIP @ 5PM

EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am— Men's Bible Study (Doors open by 7:30am— Enjoy Coffee / Juice / Donuts / Hardee's Biscuits!)[AT THE back of the Church building, come in at double doors; turn LEFT at first Hallway...]

STUDY starts @ 8:00am— **9/27/25-- ROMANS, CHAPTER 1**

NEXT Ladies Bible Study— September 30 @ 11:00am
(LESSONS from JOB) – (Downstairs, BIG Bible Study room)

EVERY TUESDAY @ 10:00am – 10:30am LADIES PRAYER MEETING (Back door, first room on right)

TUESDAY EVENING, Teens, Young Adults— Bible Study, 'EXODUS!' ... 7:15pm @ Jaden & Rhi's home

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30pm— (Come in back double doors;

ADULT MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

YOUNG FAMILIES—Study & Prayer Service

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD (by MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING)
For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS:

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO:
Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... *TO
GIVE* via ONLINE GIVING:**

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>