



Silas Ministries (a Ministry of ECHM, Inc.)

The Prayer Beacon

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Lindley & Muriel Jacobson, Editors

ROLLAND & HEIDI

BAKER

The Bakers are missionaries in Mozambique, Africa.

The board of Silas Min. felt that we should invite the Bakers to Omaha. This has been done and we are waiting for their response. ***

SILAS MINISTRIES

We are continuing to help support missionaries in the following countries:

INDIA: (Santhosh Desabattula)

Orphans, both the younger children, and the older ones who can go on to Bible school.

Bible Schools, also for other students from the villages.

Lepers, help with food, shelter and medicine. Some are being healed.

KENYA: (Francis Macharia)

Orphans in Nakuru

Christian school in Nairobi

MALAWI: (Bishop Headson)

Food because of the drought and flood not many crops were planted.

Bibles in their language

Bicycles for transportation for the pastors.

Please remember these brothers and sisters in Christ & their families in your prayers. ***

JOE ATTENDS

MISSION SCHOOL

Our grandson, Joe Braun, is attending the Harvest School of Missions, sponsored by **Iris Ministries with Rolland & Heidi**

Baker. The school has usually been in Mozambique, Africa. This is the first time it is being held in the U.S. at Sarasota, Florida. Please remember this school and Joe in your prayers. ***

BILL JOHNSON

We are praying that Pastor Bill will be able to come to Omaha in 2014. We have invited him and we are told that they will make a decision on this in September of 2013. ***

TOM OSBORNE

INVITED FOR FUND RAISER

We have invited Tom Osborne for a fund raiser. We have not received confirmation as yet. It will be held this fall if he accepts. ***

MARITAL UNITY AND UNITY WITH THE ALMIGHTY

Divorce is at a record high in the U.S. at present. Approximately one out of every two married people get divorced; and it no better in the church which is shocking. Fornication, that is living together without the benefit of marriage, is not a solution either. Neither is adultery. There are many things that cause this breakup. To name just a few there is the job, or a lack of the same, and lack of money, differences in spirituality, understanding of the role of sex, discipline of children, lack of leadership on the part of males, we could go on and on, but lack of commitment to the Holy Spirit

ranks as number 1.

Marriage was God's idea in the first place as He created them male and female and then said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Gen. 2:24. That He created them male and female is difficult enough to understand, but then He says that the two of them shall become one flesh? How? It is obvious that a man and a woman think and act differently, even after they are married.

God had said earlier "let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." Gen. 1:26. If man was created in God's image, and we read in Gen. 1:2 "the Spirit of God was hovering..." then why this emphasis upon flesh? Why didn't He say "one spirit?" As a matter of fact it says in John 4:24 (New Covenant) "God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth." So why did He say that in their unity they would become one flesh? Jesus also quotes this in the New Covenant in both Matt. 19:5 and Mark 10:8. All of the verses we have quoted from Gen. 1 & 2 (Old Covenant) are before the fall. But Jesus quoting this passage is obviously after the fall. I think this means that whatever is involved here is still in effect.

Commentators say that this emphasizes becoming one in their sexual relationship. This is obviously true but is this the only reason? What about oneness and what is being emphasized? It is probably a little out of context but I Corin. 10:11 does say that these

things in the Old Testament are written down for us as examples and for our admonition. So what do we see, and how are we admonished?

Let's take a closer look at Jesus. I know He never married, but I still think that the answer to this question can be found in understanding what kind of a person He was and is, and why He came into the world.

II Corin. 5:19 says that God was in Christ reconciled the world to Himself. Jesus was and is God's beloved Son. Thus Jesus says, "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me..." John 14:9-10. Or again He says in John 10:30, "I and My Father are One."

But still there is a difference even within the Godhead. Jesus is the only One who became incarnate, took on flesh, or a body. The Father did not, neither did the Holy Spirit. But still we can talk about them as One God. The reason is that Jesus was completely obedient in His body, and in His Spirit and in His soul.

Parenthetically let me say it another way, from God's point of view. He loves us so much that He was willing to change Himself. God is One, One with His Son and One with the Holy Spirit. Jesus, His only Son, took on flesh and became a man, for us, you and me. God changed Himself for us. No other Divine Being in all of creation has ever done this for us. Actually we can say that there is a God-man who controls the universe. He understands us completely and says that even the very hairs on our head are numbered. Matt. 10:30. How can we reject such love? As the Psalmist says, "The fool that says in his heart, 'there is no God...'" Ps. 14:1.

We can talk about the body of a person either in terms of the flesh, the blood, meat and fat, or we can talk about it as the body, flesh, of a person who is dead set against doing the will of God. The Scripture uses both definitions. It is

the later that we refer to when we say that all people have original sin. Jesus was born without original sin because of the virgin birth, God was, and is, His Father. It is interesting that when asked what they should do to be doing the works of God, Jesus answered "...This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:29.

What is considered the soul of a man? Perhaps the closest we can come to answering that is to say that men and women have emotions, mind and will.

The Lord has emotions which can be seen in Ps. 30:5 "For His anger is but for a moment..." And again is Ps. 103:8 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy." And certainly we see emotion in Jesus when at the grave of Lazarus "Jesus wept." John 11:35. **The Lord has a mind and can think as can be seen in a number of passages of Scripture, perhaps the clearest in Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord."** **The Lord has a will which can be seen in His directing the will of Jesus. "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will but Yours be done."** Luke 22:42.

Perhaps the most important is that the Father sends the Holy Spirit into Jesus at His baptism. "...Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'" Luke 3:21-22.

So can we not say that Jesus is Spirit and soul and that He has a physical body? So isn't that exactly what should be said about us who have been redeemed? The fact that we will have a body into eternity, although it will be a different one, can be seen in I Corin. 15:35-58. (You will have to look up this as I will not quote the entire passage here.) But verse 44 referring to

death says, "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." And verses 47-48 continue, "The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly." And as we will have a heavenly body, so it goes without saying that we must have obeyed Jesus. The body made from dust has been redeemed by Jesus and is growing into the likeness of His heavenly body. Physical death completes the process.

It seems to me that this is the kind of body, flesh, that Gen. 2:24 is referring to. In spite of the fall the purposes of God have not changed. This is the kind of body, flesh, that is totally obedient to God just like Jesus was and is. We can be forgiven for the times we are not. But certainly this is what God expected of our first parents. And it was true. They had become one. Still it is imperative that we see the larger picture. They were one with God. And they had everything they needed to do this. It was a beautiful relationship. And as long as they obeyed God it would have worked out beautifully. They were spiritual beings first of all. And if with their total beings, emotions, mind and will, they would have obeyed God they truly would have stayed one flesh. Before the fall they lived life as one flesh in everything they did.

And still something is hinted at here. Why is this oneness even mentioned? God knows what will happen in their future. And even now He is preparing for it. You cannot surprise God!

But what happened to this beautiful relationship? Did it continue that way? Such was not the case. They disobeyed God and chose rather to follow the directions of Satan. As a result they were expelled from God's presence. Gen. 3. Isn't that what being removed from the Garden of Eden really means? Their oneness was broken. Not only broken between each other, but most of all with

God.

In the chapter in the Bible that talks about this terrible tragedy, Gen. 3, God makes a promise. Verse 15 says it clear enough. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He (seed of the woman) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Now, in the New Covenant, Satan has been defeated, but he is still around. His only chance against us is to deceive, lie and kill, and he makes the most of it. Many in the marriage relationship believe that lie and thus marital unity is being destroyed, between man and woman, and also between man and God. But thank God many do not and therefore they experience this unity.

Perhaps the greatest deception of all is fornication. And so is adultery. It just simply does nothing to correct the situation. Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct us according to the word does!

Acts 11:38 says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Jesus sets people free from Satan, the devil, so that they can fulfill God's call to marital unity and thus again have unity with Him. Romans 10:11-13 says, "For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" **If you do not have marital unity, do not be ashamed. It is a battle we all face. But Jesus Christ wants to and can help.** Men, earthly fathers, should especially realize this. Call on God for help and then believe that He will help you.

We talked about the mind of man which is included in the soul. The Scripture says that we have the mind of Christ. I Corin. 2:16. We can think like Jesus did.

It is true that man and woman were removed from the Garden of Eden after the fall. But God did not

reject them. The rest of the Old Testament tells how God was trying to redeem them. Some listened. Many did not.

In the New Testament it continues the same but there is one huge difference. God had promised that the Messiah, the Savior, would come. In the New Testament He does and His name is Jesus. He takes man's place, dies upon the cross for our sins and is resurrected again. Then He goes back to heaven and sends the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. **The New Testament, or Covenant, explodes with this good news. God is not angry with us, He wants to forgive us, and tries to convince us of that by whatever means He can, short of forcing us to believe. He invites us to come to Him and be forgiven!**

As we said before, it is interesting to note that when asked what they should be doing to do the works of God, Jesus answered "...This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:29. Jesus says, "I have done everything for you so that you can be restored to unity with God and with each other. Won't you please accept it?" There is nothing for you to do but repent of trying to do it yourself. Change your mind!

Jesus does say that we should receive the Holy Spirit. We need Him to direct this new life we have. We want to witness of His great love for us, Acts 1:8. We want to serve Him in whatever ways we can. We need to know how He will help us. In Luke 11:9-13, verse 13 says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." This is God's gift to us. How can we refuse it? He wants to give the Holy Spirit to every saved, converted, or born again Christian.

And we should not strive at receiving this, or work up a sweat, because He says, "...My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matt. 11:30. This includes unity with God and marital unity.

But there is still one problem. We said that man in his soul (mind) have given in to Satan, to follow his directions. Man still does, and we can see that in the world around us. Every evil thing that you can think of can be traced back to the devil's deception, lies and killing. Believe me, sin is real! What do you spend your time thinking about? What do you spend your time watching? Why? We become what we think about and what we say and hear influences us more than we realize. Remember, the Bible says, "...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Matt. 12:34.

What controls us, the flesh, or the Spirit? In Gal. 5:17 it says, "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these two are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

But remember what II Corin. 5:17 says also, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." **Let's pray that the Holy Spirit lead us, and that we obey Him, so that we can live this life as new creatures of God.** God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, will be united with us and marital unity will be accomplished. ***

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