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keep your heart through Christ Jesus. Let us all grab hold of the peace that God offers and never let go.

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The beautiful thing about the peace of God is that it will only leave you when you leave Him who can guard and

"WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?"

One Where His Name Is Glorified

- Acts 4:12** - No other name whereby we might be saved.
- Acts 11:26** - God gave the name Christian
- 1 Peter 4:16** - We can glorify God in this name.

One Where His Teachings On Salvation Are Followed

- John 14:6** - Only He is the way to heaven.
- Hebrews 5:9** - All must obey Him to be saved.
- John 8:24** - He said we must believe on Him.
- Luke 13:3** - He said we must repent.
- Matthew 10:32-33** - He said we must confess Him.
- Mark 16:16** - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship

- John 4:24** - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.
- Acts 20:7** - Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.
- Colossians 3:16** - Singing praises to God.
- Acts 2:42** - Prayer and teaching.
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2** - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST "The churches of Christ salute you." (Romans 16:16) ♦

About the Hillcrest church of Christ		
Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew		
How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com  	1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 	Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm* <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>
www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com		



The Voice of Truth



February 27, 2011

Rules and Regulations
By Jimmy Pettigrew

The gospel is good news, glad tidings about man's salvation (**Romans 1:16; James 1:21**). "Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed him, If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples" (**John 8:31**). Paul tells us the Lord will render "vengeance to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-8**). Christ "became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (**Hebrews 5:9**). Peter informs us, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth ..." (**1 Peter 1:22**). Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (**John 14:15**). Again, Christ informs us, "Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you" (**John 15:14**). On the Sermon on the Mount the King of kings tells us "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (**Matthew 7:21**). Do you get the idea that God intends for us to have a deep and abiding obedience to what He says? People need to wake up! God has always been pleased with the person who maintains absolute loyalty to the specifics of His commands. "To obey is better than sacrifice" (**1 Samuel 15:22**). Please listen, nothing is acceptable to God unless it is done according to His will (**Leviticus 10:1ff**). Why is this so hard to get through people's heads that salvation is available to such as obey Him, "but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (**John 3:36**).

We as humans have the attitude that everyone can do that which is right in their own eyes (**Judges 17:6**). They say "this is my freedom." Well, how far are you willing to go concerning this freedom? To be consistent you cannot logically oppose any other form of wrong. If a woman wants to marry ten men, on what basis could anyone object? It's her freedom! What about one who wants to marry his/her pet? Or a man who has sex with children? You can't say a thing! Once the objective moral framework provided by God in the Bible (rules and regulations) is abandoned, anything goes and there is no wrong.

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; But he that is wise hearkeneth unto counsel" (**Proverbs 12:15**). The fool rejects counsel, why? So that he/she might pursue his own selfish course, that which is right in his/her own eyes. We don't need rules! "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (**Proverbs 14:12**). The fool, using only the standard of his own, thinks he sees the right way; but it will lead to ruin. The prophet Jeremiah pointed out "that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (**Jeremiah 10:23**). The wise man will seek counsel from the wisest of sources, that being the Word of God. Why? "Ye shall walk in all the way which Jehovah your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you ..." (**Deuteronomy 5:33**). God's commands are not "burdensome" (**1 John 5:3**) nor "too hard" (**Deuteronomy 30:11**). The laws of God, His commandments, should be desirable (**Psalms 19:10**) and tasteful (**Psalms 119:103**).

One thing I have noticed while being a gospel preacher for these many years is the fact that we humans do not generally regard rules and regulations as being a positive object in one's life. We usually perceive them as invasions upon our freedom - deliberate attempts to restrict our behavior. When it comes to God's word telling us that drinking alcoholic beverages is sin, dancing is sin, living together is sin, abortion is sin and homosexuality is sin; it boils down that we humans have a tendency to display resentment and a rebellious spirit when faced with these spiritual regulations, particularly if we practice these

People think rigid obedience to the word of God is restricting us to be free and happy. That's not true! "Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed him, If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (**John 8:31-32**). Truth makes one free! "If ye know these things, blessed (happy, JP) are ye if ye do

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them" (John 13:17). "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies" (Psalm 119:2). "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches" (Psalm 119:14). Obedience is required of all, and if we refuse then we have no right to call Jesus our Lord (Luke 6:46). As mentioned above, our obedience to God's rules and regulations will bring us to be a friend of the Lord, and salvation (John 15:14; Hebrews 5:9). "Let thy lovingkindness also come unto me, O Jehovah, even thy salvation, according to thy word" (Psalm 119:42). Hopefully, we "will run the way of

thy commandments" (Psalm 119:32).

Remember, God is asking us to do that which is best for us, best of life here and here after. God wants the best for us! And we need to choose that which is best for us (Joshua 24:15). Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! (Joel 3:14). People need to remember these rules are given for our good! "And Jehovah commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Jehovah our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as at this day" (Deuteronomy 6:24). Have you chosen the way of faithfulness (Psalm 119:30)? •

"Think Like God Thinks"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In Romans 12:1-2, the apostle Paul wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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." In this article, I want us to study the phrase "the renewing of your mind." The word "renewing" means, "renewal, renovation, complete change for the better" (Thayer's, p. 38). Please notice the contrast made between God and the world in this text. It is obvious that to be like God is better than being like the world. If we are not going to conform to this world in its thoughts, actions, etc., we need to think like God thinks!

How Can I Think Like God Thinks?

Let's answer this question by asking: How can anyone think like another? Thinking as someone else demands first that that person's thoughts be revealed! Thus, if we are to think like God thinks, we must know what He is thinking. How can this happen? Is this even possible? Paul writes to the Corinthians about this very subject and says, "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to

us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:8-13). Therefore, Romans 12:1-2 was not telling us to do something that we cannot do. God has revealed His mind to men through His Spirit.

Where Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Now that we know the Holy Spirit has revealed God's thoughts to men, where are they revealed? Is God's will revealed in such a way that is "better felt than told?" Does the Spirit speak personally to every person on earth so God's will is known? Has He hidden it in some obscure place that will take men a lifetime to find? The answer to these questions is "no," but unfortunately, it may take some a lifetime to find the Bible. See, the Bible reveals the thoughts of God to man. Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (I Pet. 4:11). The word "oracles" means, "the utterances." Therefore, every time we read and speak from God's word, we are reading and speaking the revealed thoughts of God to men. Isn't that amazing!! God loved us enough to give us His thoughts, and when we study and read His word (II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:4), we can think like God thinks! What other book, man, or group of men could give you that?

Why Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Have you ever wondered why God would spend so much time and expend such effort in giving us a book by which to live? Why were His thoughts revealed? Was there a reason we need to know who God is? Let us let the Bible answer the question "why." In John 20:29-31, we read, "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen

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me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." God's thoughts were written so we might believe. Why believe? It is because through faith we obey God's word and can be saved (Rom. 10:13-17; Heb. 11:6, 5:8-9; etc.). God's thoughts revealed man's sin, his need for a Savior, and the way to be saved (Rom. 3:23; Rev. 3:20; Mk. 16:16).

How Were His Thoughts Revealed?

We have discussed the "where", and "why". Now, how did the Holy Spirit reveal God's thoughts? The method used for revelation is revealed for us in the Bible as well. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1-2). Peter says something similar to that in II Peter 1:20-21. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." These passages reveal that God spoke to the fathers for a

The Peace of God

By Jonathan L. Perz

Do you ever feel tired? Do you need an escape from the things of this world? All of its cares? Its worries? Its troubles? It is not unusual to feel 'at the end of your rope' at times and to long for some peace!

We seek peace in many things. Some seek peace in their favorite hobby. Some in a sort of solitude, where no one can bother them. Some get their break by reading a good book. Others seek peace in destructive ways—alcohol, drugs, suicide, or various other addictions—which bring only more turmoil and difficulty.

These things only offer temporary peace. They only offer a brief escape from the realities of the world, knowing that we must once again endure them. Where can we find absolute peace and security?

This is what God offers us! God offers a true peace—one that we cannot find from any source in this world. It is

time. These men were "moved" (inspired) by the Holy Ghost to say the things they did (I Cor. 2). Jesus was also sent to reveal God's thoughts to man (Jn. 12:49-50). After God's thoughts were revealed to man, they were written down for future generations to receive the spiritual benefit (Ex. 34:27; Jn. 20:30-31; Eph. 3:3-5; etc.). Thus today we have the written word so that we might think like God thinks (Rom. 12:1-2)!

What Does This Mean For Those In Religious Error?

When one decides that he is going to think like God thinks, he will stand opposed to religious error. Therefore, Satan has lost a soldier. When we think like God thinks, we will no longer be "tolerant" of those that are impenitent in sin. We would rather teach the truth and have folks not like us, than to have a friend that goes to Hell because of our inaction (II Tim. 2:2). Thinking like God thinks will make us realize that we need to be doing all that God has said. We cannot "pick and choose" our obedience and hope to go to Heaven (Ecc. 12:13-14; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:14).

Conclusion

Have you renewed your mind? Have you decided you want to think like God thinks? Your only other option is to think like the world. Which will it be? (Matt. 6:24, 16:26).

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not simply a temporary or brief reprieve. In the right heart, it is eternal and everlasting. It surpasses all understanding.

The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The peace of God comes from knowing your eternity is secure regardless of what befalls you in this world.

To secure your eternity, you must obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Rom 10:9-10; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:1-6) and then live faithfully unto death (Rev. 2:10). Only then can you have access to the Father—through the Son—knowing that He will answer the prayers of His children.

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