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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- George Barna,
Christian sociologist
and author states:
- **I'm convinced that
the typical church
as we know it today
has a rapidly expiring
shelf life.**

(The Second Coming of the Church, p. 1.)

- I find it interesting that the movie industry continues to support Biblical ideas even though they detest the Bible.
- Well, that is unless it is making them money.

- Have you notice that most movies use the idea of good and bad or light verses darkness.

- Remember, when we were kids and the good guys wore white hats and the bad guys wore black hats.

- What would the movie industry do without light vs. darkness.

- Sometimes darkness is preferred over and above the bright light of day:
- Having a candle light dinner in a darkened room has a special appeal and romance.
- Going to see a movie at the theatre only works if the theatre is dark.

- Sometimes the phrase **“in the dark”** might be used to indicate that we are confused, don't understand, unclear.

- In the Bible and in literature generally darkness is associated with things **that are evil and with death.**

- Under the cover of darkness many crimes are committed.

- Acts of cruelty and violence come from the dark side.

- Death is described as something dark and sinister.

- It is during periods of darkness **caused by power failures** that businesses are destroyed,
 - Not by hardened criminals, **but by ordinary people** who lived up the road, by normally law abiding people.
 - In the dark, **greed takes over.**

- Sometimes people prefer the darkness, because in the light they see too much.
- **“All along on to the road to the soul’s true abode,**
- **there’s an Eye watching you;**
- **Every step that you take this great Eye is awake, there’s an Eye watching you.”**

- The song exhorts us to faithfulness by reminding us that God is omniscient.
- He sees and knows everything.
- Regarding God's eternal presence, the Psalmist asked,
 - ***“Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”***
(Psalm 139:7).

- Sometimes people prefer the darkness, because in the light they see too much.
 - They continue in their old ways.
 - The Gospel Light is just too bright.

- John's gospel says,
“*This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil*”
(**John 3:19**).

- **JOHN 1:4**

*In him was life and
the life was
the light of men.*

- The Fourth Gospel
begins and **ends**
with life.

- At the very beginning
we read that in
Jesus was life;
- and at the very end
we read that John's aim
in writing the gospel was..
 - That men might
*"believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God,
and that believing
you may have life in his name"*
(John 20:31).

- The word
“life”
is continually
on the lips of Jesus.

- It is his regret
that men will not
come to him
that they might have life
(**John 5:40**).

- His purpose
in coming ...
- *That men might have life
and that they might have
it abundantly
(John 10:10).*

- His claim is that he gives men life and that they will *never perish* because no one will snatch them out of his hand (**John 10:28**).

- That danger lies only **in your hands and mine.**

- His claim is that
he is
the way,
the truth
and the life
(John 14:6).

- In the gospel the word
"*life*"

<**G_2222**>

occurs more than

thirty-five times

and the verb

"*to live*"

or

"*to have life*"

<**G_2198**>

more than fifteen times.

- What then does John mean by "*life*"?

- # 1 He means that life is the opposite of destruction, condemnation, death.

- God sent his Son that the man whoever believes {G_4100} should not perish but have eternal life (**John 3:16**).

- The man who hears and believes has eternal life ... (**John 5:24**).

- In considering **any version** it must be acknowledged that the translator often brings some of their **theological background** in producing his work.
- Such was no less true of the **KJV scholars.**
- Note the following **example:**

- **John 3:36**
He that
believeth
on the Son
hath everlasting life:

- ***and he that***
believeth not the Son
shall not see life...

- Asserting that
“belief”

is only a mental process.

- Now, we will look at the American Standard Version

- **John 3:36**

He that

believeth {**G_4100**}

on the Son hath eternal life;

- but he that *obeyeth not* {**G_544**}
the Son shall not see life...

- Note that the ASV renders

“belief”

as a matter of obedience.

- John 3:36 (ASV)

*He that believes on the Son
has eternal life;
but he that obeys not the Son
shall not see life...*

- Professor J. Carl Laney has written:

“This text indicates clearly

that belief

is not

a matter of passive opinion,

but decisive and obedient action”

(**John**: Moody Gospel Commentary, Chicago: Moody, 1992, p. 87).

- J. Carl Laney is professor of biblical literature at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon.

- **John 5:24**

*Truly, truly,
I say to you,
The one who
hears*

*My Word,
and believes
has eternal life....*

- The English word
“listen”
or
“hears”
is rendered from
the Hebrew word
”shema”
{**H_8085**} .

- (<https://bibleproject.com/blog/what-is-the-shema/>)

- *Shema*

{**H-8085**}

is the three letter
Hebrew verb root
translated into English
as to **Hear**, or **Listen**.

- In Hebrew
”*to Hear*”

is also to
Do, or **Obey**:

- *Hear, O Israel:
The LORD our God
is one LORD:
Deuteronomy 6:4*
 - Also note:
- “*Blessed rather are those
who Hear the Word of God
and Obey it.”
Luke 11:28*
- *Be Doers of the Word,
and not Hearers only.
James 1:22*

- Until we accept Jesus
and take him
as our savior
and enthrone him
as our king
we cannot be said
to live at all.

- A man who lives a Christ-less life exists,
but he does not know
what life really is.
- He physically lives and breathes.
- But that is all he does.

- Jesus is the one person who can make life worth living,
- And in whose company death is only the prelude to fuller life.
- Are we convinced of that?

- # 2 John is sure that Jesus is the bringer of life.
- *For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life...*
 - **(John 6:40).**

- Jesus is the giver of life because the Father has set his own *seal of approval* upon him (**John 6:27**).
- As a Notary does today.
- Defined as an Impartial Witness.

- We find the Apostle Paul notarizing the gospel

- Galatians 1:11

*But I certify you, brethren,
that the gospel which was
preached of me
is not after man.*

- # 3 We must ask what this life is.

- John's Gospel uses the phrase eternal life.

{ **6 Times** }

- The word John uses for eternal is

aionios

{i onn e os)

<**G_166**>.

- Eternal life is not simply life which lasts for ever.
- A life which lasted for ever could be a terrible curse.

- Often the thing for which men long **is release from life.**
- In eternal life there must be more than **duration of life;**
- There must also be **a certain quality of life.**

- Life is **not** desirable unless it is a certain kind of life.
- Here we have the clue.
 - Aionios
(**<G166>**)
is the adjective which
is repeatedly used
to describe God.

- In the true sense of the word only God is

aionios

(**<G166>**),

eternal;

therefore eternal life is

that life which God lives.

- Eternal life is life which knows something of the serenity and power of the life of God himself.

- When Jesus came offering men eternal life, he was inviting them to enter into life with Him.

- It is a mistake to view eternal life as simply an unending progression of years.
- A common New Testament word for “eternal” is {aiónios}, which carries the idea of quality as well as quantity.

- Eternal life is **not** associated with “**years**” at all, **as it is independent of time.**
- Eternal life can function **outside of** and **beyond time,** as well as **within time.**

- Eternal life
can be thought of
as something that
Christians experience now.

- Believers don't
have to "**wait**"
for eternal life,
- Because it's not something
that starts when they die.
- **It begins the moment**
a person exercises
faith and obedience
in Christ.

- John 3:36 says,
“*Whoever believes in the Son
has eternal life.*”

- “Believes”
is present active
which speak of
ongoing action.

- Belief is
more than
a one time decision
no matter how sincere
or emotional
it may have been.

- Note that the believer
 “has”
 {G_2192}
- To have in one’s hand.
- In fact, we all possess eternal life.
 - Some to heaven.
 - Others to hell.

- We find similar present-tense constructions in

John 5:24

and

John 6:47.

- The focus of eternal life **is not on our future,**

- But on our **current standing** in Christ.

The Bible links eternal life
with the Person of Jesus Christ.

In John 17:3

Jesus prays:

***“Now this is eternal life:
that they know you,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ,
whom you have sent.”***

Here, Jesus equates

“eternal life”

with a knowledge of
God and of the Son.

- There is no knowledge of God without the Son, for it is through the Son that the Father reveals Himself to the elect.

- John 14:8

Philip told him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will satisfy us."

14:9 *Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?"*

- ***"The person who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"***

- This life-giving knowledge of the Father and the Son is a true, personal knowledge, not just an academic awareness.

- To those false professors, Jesus will say, *“I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”* (**Matthew 7:23**).

- It is frightening to think that the religious activity of:

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

- Can be performed in such **a self-deceiving way.**

- The apostle Paul made it his goal to know the Lord,
- And he linked that knowledge to resurrection from the dead:
 - Philippians 3:10
*That I may know him,
and the power of
his resurrection,*

- Every sinner is invited to know Christ and to receive eternal life:

- *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him... take the water of life freely.*
(Revelation 22:17).

- **John puts it so simply:**
- **“and this life is in his Son.
Whoever has the Son
has life;**
- **whoever does not have the
Son of God does not have life**

(1 John 5:11–12).

- **It is more than academic!**

- # 4 How, then,
do we enter into that life?
- We enter into it
by believing
in Jesus Christ.
- The word to believe
pisteuein,
{pis tu o}
<G_4100>
occurs in John's Gospel
no fewer than
seventy times.

- ***"He who believes in the Son has eternal life"***
(John 3:36).
- **What** does John mean by to believe?
 - He means **two things.**

- # 1 He means that we must be convinced that Jesus is really the Son of God.
- If Jesus is only a man, there is no reason why we should give obedience that he demands.
- We have to think out for ourselves:
 - Who he was.
 - Until we are driven to the conclusion that he is none other than the Son of God.

- # 2 It requires more than intellectual belief.
- To believe in Jesus means to take Jesus at his word.
- To accept his commandments as absolute.
 - When we do that we stop existing and begin living.

- Twice

Jesus calls himself
the light of the world
(John 8:12;9:5).

- Men can become
children of the light
(John 12:36).

- *"I have come as light into the world"*
(**John 12:46**).

- Let us see if

we can understand

this idea of the light which Jesus brings into the world.

- **Three things stand out.**

- # 1 The light Jesus brings is the light which puts chaos to flight.
 - When God said:
"Let there be light"
(Genesis 1:3).
 - The darkness fled.

- He is the one person who can save life from becoming chaos.
 - Left to ourselves we are at the mercy of our passions and our fears.

- # 2 Jesus is a revealing light.
- It is a condemning light.
- Because men loved the darkness rather than the light;
- And they did so because *their deeds were evil;*
- and they hated the light exposing their deeds.
(**John 3:19-20**).

- The light which Jesus brings is something which shows things as they are.
- It strips away the disguises and the concealments;
- It shows them in their true character.

- We never see ourselves until we see ourselves through the eyes of Jesus.
- We never see what our lives are like until we see them in the light of Jesus.

- Jesus drives us
to God

by revealing us
to ourselves.

- # 3 The light which Jesus brings is a guiding light.
- If a man does not possess that light he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going (**John 12:36**).
- When a man receives that light and believes in it, he walks no more in darkness (**John 12:46**).

- How often people came to Jesus asking:
 - "*What must I do?*"
- When Jesus comes into life the time of guessing and of groping is ended,
 - The time of doubt and uncertainty is gone.

- The path that was dark **becomes light**;
- The decision that was wrapped in uncertainty **is illumined.**
- Without Jesus we are like men groping on an unknown road **in a black-out.**
- With him the way is **clear.**

- **The Hostile Dark**

John 1:5

And the light shines
in the **darkness**,
and the **darkness**
did not put it out.

- Here we meet another of
John's key-words
darkness .

- This word occurs **seven times** in the gospel.
- To John there was a darkness in the world that was as **real as the light.**

- # 1 The darkness is hostile to the light.
- The light shines in the darkness, but, however hard the darkness tries, it cannot extinguish it.
 - Sinning man loves the darkness and hates the light.

- The great Persian religion of **Zoroastrianism** believed that there were **two great opposing powers** in the universe.
- The god of the **light** and the god of the **dark**, Ahriman and Ormuzd.

- The whole universe was a battle-ground in the eternal, cosmic conflict between the light and the dark;
 - And all that mattered in life was the side a man chose.

- So John is saying:
there is a darkness
which seeks to eliminate him,
to extinguish him.
- But there is a power in Jesus
that is undefeatable.

- The darkness can hate him, **but it can never** get rid of him.
- John is saying: "Choose your side in the eternal conflict **and choose aright.**"

- **# 2** **The darkness stands for**
all those who hate the good.
 - It is the man
who has
something to hide
loves the dark.
 - **But it is impossible**
to hide anything from God.
 - His searchlight
sweeps the shadows
and
evils of the world.

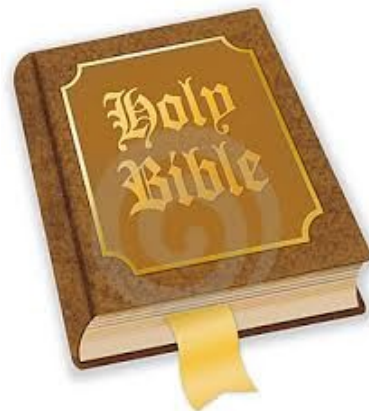
- Although men have tried to extinguish the light of God in Christ,
 - They have never been able to quench it.
 - In every generation the light of Christ still shines in spite of the efforts of men to extinguish the flame.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 05-02-2021 Tryon, N.C.