

September 12, 2021

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## In What Does One's Life's Consist?

By Max Ogden

On one occasion Christ was instructing his disciples to beware of covetousness and said, *"For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."* In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, *"Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"* I am sure that Christ did not mean by these statements that man did not need any food to cause this physical body to live. He was talking about the welfare of man that is to live throughout eternity. This physical body needs food and without it we will soon die. Just as surely as the physical man must have food to live, the spiritual man must be fed to be eternally blessed.

When God made man he provided all that was necessary for his physical being and welfare. Through Christ he has provided every thing that is necessary for the spiritual welfare and growth of man that will last throughout eternity. As man must use the means that God has provided to live, and develop and prosper, even so he must use the means that God has provided to be prepared for eternity.

Man has never been satisfied with what God has provided. Adam was not satisfied to be in the Garden of Eden and live according to God's instructions. He did something the devil told him to do and was cast out. The Jews who were the descendants of Abraham, that God had led into the land of Canaan, and gave the ten commandments, were not satisfied to be guided by His laws, and today they are a hiss and a byword, scattered among the nations of the world never to be gathered together again. Christ has come into the world to prepare us for a home in heaven. He was rejected of men, who actually saw the good that He was doing, and naturally His way is rejected by men today. I am certain in my own mind that He will destroy us who reject His way today, as He destroyed those evil men by the flood.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

Soon after Jesus was baptized He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. In His first temptation He said, *“Men shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* He was tempted three times and every time He said, *“It is written.”* Every time He used what was written in the old Bible. Therefore it was written in the Bible. He is not talking about living a physical life. It is by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God that the spiritual man lives. That does not mean that I can do what I want to of what God says and mix it with what I want to and be saved. That is what happened to Adam. God told him not to eat of a certain tree, but he ate and was cast out. God told Moses to speak to the rock, but he smote it and God would not allow him to go over into the land of Canaan. If Moses had known what to do in the first place there would have been no need for God to tell him. If we could work out a plan whereby we can be saved, there is no need for Christ having to come into the world to prepare a way. When we legislate for God we reject his way and we are not living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. When we walk by faith, we walk by God’s word. When we are just we are living by God’s word, because we are justified by it. If we belong to God we are so by His word. We are told, *“He that is of God heareth the word of God.”* If I stand in the day of judgment it will be because I have kept His word. The words that Jesus has spoken will judge me in the last day.

Friends, this world is full of religions and practices that we come in contact with every day, that are not one time mentioned in His word. Many sincere people practice things to be saved, unknown to God’s word. Multitudes fill churches every Sunday to engage in worship unauthorized by words that have come from the mouth of God.

We have hundreds of churches made up of honest people who are satisfied, yet such churches cannot be found on God’s sacred pages. Many of our lives are so warped by sin that we are a disgrace to society, and surely we would not claim such to be guided by God’s word. We talk about “Evangelism” and “America back to God” and many like expressions, but the thing we need most is to discard our traditions, our opinions, our vain worship, our doctrines and commandments of men and get back to a, *“Thus saith the Lord”* for *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

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***A man may suffer without sinning, but he can’t sin without suffering.***

***The wages of sin have never been reduced.***

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# Attitudes

By Arthur M. Ogden

Often when discussing a question of some importance, the remark is made, "I don't like your attitude." This is one way of saying, "I don't like the way you are looking at the problem. You are looking at it in the wrong way."

There is a right way and a wrong way to look at everything. No one is perfect and everyone is subject to his own human weaknesses, and it is altogether possible that all of us at one time or another have been guilty of looking at things with the wrong attitude.

Whether, or not, I have the right attitude toward a thing may depend upon a number of circumstances. All of us to one degree or another are influenced by environment, education, experience, and desires common to all. Through these we form opinions, prejudices, customs, and convictions which are not easily subsided. These influence our thinking and mold our attitudes.

Our attitude toward the Bible and a discussion of it is patterned in the same way. Through our religious environment, education, experience, and our personal desires we form our opinions, prejudices, convictions, and etc. . . , and our attitudes toward the scriptures are formed, and more often than not they are the wrong attitudes.

## Wrong Attitudes

An *indifferent attitude* is often our possession. It is the result of a do nothing, learn nothing, know nothing, and be nothing atmosphere. As a result, we are unconcerned about truth, do not care what the Bible says, and accept any and everything upon the grounds that it is OK with me. As loneliness is the mother of sin, indifference is the father of all unrighteousness and iniquity in the churches. Let us not be so possessed.

An *attitude of selfishness* often characterizes us, and because of it we often try to interpret scripture in the light of what we want it to say rather than what it says. It is the foundation of denominationalism, the fruit of which can be seen everywhere.

An *attitude of arrogance* sometimes finds its way into our hearts. We feel that we are some special creation of God and that everyone should bow in humble submission before us. It is the attitude of "I am right and I cannot be wrong." This is an abomination unto God (Prov.16:5).

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

An *attitude of suspicion* deceives us into thinking the other fellow is evil, and nothing he advocates could possibly be right. Because of this attitude many honorable men have been defamed while those who possess it have believed a lie that they might be damned.

### The Right Attitude

The proper attitude to possess everyone who approaches a discussion of the Bible is that of **humility**. By humility we destroy our own will (Luke 9:23), and recognize God as our Superior and others as our equals (Phil.2:3). We “*study to show ourselves approved unto God . . . rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Tim. 2:15), and once we have learned the truth, we will meekly receive it and obey it (Jas.1:21,22). With this attitude, we can always, without exception, come to a knowledge of the truth. Try it, and see for yourselves.



**P**raise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with *my* whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation.

— *Psalms 111:1*

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***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

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**September Birthdays:**

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**This Bulletin** is a weekly publication of the Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

**Sunday**

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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