

So What Manner of Persons are We Anyway?

A comparison of Psalm 2 and 2 Peter 3:11

Br. Todd Alexander

Opening Hymn – 281 – “The Church”

Closing Hymn – 105 – “Satisfied With Thy Likeness”

Read Psalm 2

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Read 2 Peter 3:11

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

We take great comfort at the end of the Gospel Age knowing that God is in control.

Isn't it exciting to know that God is in charge of all of man's futile efforts?

God provided us with this knowledge destination for our comfort, care and keeping.....

And I believe He does this to help us change and to motivate us!

1 John 2:20 NIV - But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

Colossians 1:27 - To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Colossians 2:1-3 – “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

We are blessed, God provides us with the nourishment we need in this Evil day. We are His spirit begotten ones. We know the truth. We were promised this knowledge destination.

John 16:13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Harvest Message delivered by Pastor Russell lays-out God’s plan beautifully. It is indispensable as we draw spiritual strength in the narrow way during this evil day.

Psalm 2 is an inspiring chapter which brings to bear in us all of the passionate feelings we have about God’s ultimate victory over the nations of the Earth. We take comfort in seeing God’s Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power in a beautiful plan that will ultimately judge the world and serve all mankind.

Now, God’s relationship with the Church is far different from His relationship with the world. But the way God deals with sin in us is not so different than the way He promises to deal with sin in the world. REPEAT.

Let’s take another look at Psalm 2.

Overview of Psalm 2

V.1 – Rebellion.

V.2-3 - Rebellious plans against His Anointed.

V.4-5 - God is in control. God will exercise His Power against the rebellious.

V.6-9 - God exercises his Power through Christ.

V.10-12 – Finally, a call for repentance.

This process, my brethren, is similar to the way God deals with sin in us---the Church class, at the end of the Gospel Age. Our flesh is in rebellion against the Lord’s anointed and we must constantly watch it to keep it under control. If we don’t, God will exercise His judgement against us in no less certain terms than He is exercising His judgement today over the world.

Let’s read 2 Peter 3:11-14

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of

the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Peter's Message in a Nutshell

Therefore, seeing God's template for dealing with sin acted out in such a powerful way, we should look for ways to conform to His rule in our lives.

It appeals to me that the same passionate feelings we have toward God's ultimate victory over the nations, need to be channeled inward and used by us as positive momentum so that we might be more diligent at submitting to the refining work currently in us. REPEAT

Do you hear Peter's message ringing in your ears?

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,"

So What Manner of Persons are We Anyway?

This is the real question we must ask ourselves!

Our searching for the honest answer is where all of the doctrines of Christ come together and provide relevance to each of us individually and to our relationship within the Body of Christ.

The Apostle Peter frames the question in the context of teaching doctrine about God's powerful intervention in the world's affairs both past, present and future. (my father taught us the three dispensations from this chapter)

Right in the middle of Peter's overview of the three dispensations, he deposits two nice little statements that show us the relationship between doctrine and character.

Peter tells us that Doctrine provides the means and the impetus for us to change by asking us a rhetorical question full of meaning.

First, Peter asks us the question in v.11; "what manner of persons ought ye to be....," then he hammers home the answer with the admonition to be diligent in v.14. ---

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

Excellent article - R5724: "Love of the Father and the Son our Pattern." – Honesty with self.

Peter provides both the “reasons Why” and the tools for the “How To” in one nice little package.

The Apostle Peter’s admonition is for us to look to ourselves and change.

2 Peter 3:11 – The word “Conversation” actually means “Behavior”

Strong’s #391 - anastrophe; behavior: Holy Conduct, Holy Living.

The word Godliness = Piety, Godlikeness

Peter tells us that our objective is to be Godlike and to exhibit Godlike behavior.

Important Point: Godliness is what we are. Behavior is what we do.

V.11 Peter soberly admonishes us to be introspective and to pay attention to what we are and what we are doing.

V.14 Peter tells us to change.

Paul tells us to change.... James tells us to change... Jesus tells us to change. We better CHANGE!

V. 11 & 14 - are nice little bookends aren’t they? Peter’s style of teaching of reminding us of truth that inspires us makes us love his words all the more.

5 Minute Overview of 2nd Peter

Let’s take a quick overview of how the Apostle Peter fashioned his second book. In 2 Peter, all three chapters, Peter stresses the importance of change in relation to doctrine and he frames the picture for us very efficiently.

Chapter One

1:4 – Peter encourages us to climb the ladder (as it were) of Precious Promises given to us for our strength.

1:5-8 – He outlines the beautiful character qualities we should earnestly strive for in the Graces of the Spirit; Faith, virtue, knowledge, self control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, selfless love. (All relate to Behavior / Godliness) – all pertain to what we are and what we do.

1:9 – Peter tells us that those who do not have the Graces of the Spirit are not overcomers.

1:10 – He pleads with us to be diligent to make our calling and election sure and thereby gain entrance into the Kingdom.

1:12 – Peter wasn’t afraid to reiterate Present Truth even though he knew that we were already aware of it.

1:13 – Peter helps us remember the important doctrines, the doctrines of CHANGE. In fact in 3:1 he gives us the benefit of the doubt by assuming our minds are already pure. Then he goes on to imply that we need some tweaking!

Chapter Two

Mainly a stern warning about false teachers - Teachers who are overcome with selfishness and ambition.

Incidentally, what was wrong with these false teachers? Was it that they taught wrong doctrine? Or was it that they were overcome with selfishness and ambition?

It appeals to me growing up in the Bible Students that it was very easy to emphasize living in the correct doctrine. And almost miss the important point that the false doctrine of the false teachers was actually the natural result, the manifestation, of their ungodly character traits of selfishness and ambition.

Peter just got done talking about the Graces of the Spirit in Chapter one! What a contrast between the Graces of the Spirit and the false teachers! The key verse is 2:22 particularly the phrase "The dog is turned to his own vomit again;..." What was the vomit? Was it the doctrine? Was it the character flaws? It is both! The Pastor talks about this in R260:6 as those who "...begin to walk according to their own will." To bring personal relevance to the lesson, we need to ask ourselves the question; "Is it possible for us to turn again to our own vomit?" Sure! But how do we know if we are? We will address this question later.

Peter teaches us the doctrine of Nominalism in Chapter Two and continues it in Chapter Three when describing the scoffers at the end of the age. But lest we get too comfortable in this "knowledge destination," ----- this ability to define what a nominal Christian is, he quickly changes our focus to ourselves in 2 Peter 3:11,14.

Chapter 3 – Another tender admonition

Peter stirs up what he calls our pure minds by:

Reiterating the authority of the NT and OT.

Warning us of scoffers and then he goes right in to a history lesson.

He summarizes the three dispensations including the event of Jesus' Parousia and hits us squarely between the eyes with verses 11 and 14.

Point Conclusion

Peter is definitely mixing it up for us. He is stirring up our pure minds by way of reminding us of the spirit that begets us and the resulting graces that we will exhibit from that begetting. Peter contrasts this with the opposite; the scoffers --- those who walk after "their own will." Peter forcefully yet tenderly admonishes us to be strong in godlike character and godly behavior.

What a wonderful encouragement to the body of Christ. We are privileged to be counted as feet members. Brethren, let us be overcomers and work hard in developing the Fruits and Graces of the Spirit.

Pause – count to 4

Brethren, How is your New Creature doing today?

Is it Flourishing?

Is it suffering?

If your New Creature is Flourishing, that's wonderful! It must be flourishing in a mortal body of flesh that is properly suppressed and subjected.

If your answer is anything less, your New Creature could be Flourishing and you have the power to change it!

In either case, you are reaping what you have sown and it is either to your credit or your blame, whatever the case may be.... You are accountable for the health of your New Creature!

Today, we are reaping what we have sown yesterday. Tomorrow, we will reap what we are sowing today. This is part of the wisdom and justice of God.

Are we sowing to the Fruits and Graces of the Spirit?

Are we sowing to the Works of the Flesh?

How are we supposed to know if we are sowing to the flesh or to the spirit?

Jer 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

In 2 Peter Chapters 2 & 3, the Apostle Peter contrasts two vastly different, and in fact opposing types of Christians. We call them the True Christians and the Nominal Christians. They are defined not only by what they believe but also by what drives them. The True Christians are driven by Humility while the Nominal Christians are driven by selfishness and ambition. Certainly we want to be like the True Christians who are driven by Humility.

These are two vastly opposing and contrasting sides.

Now we feel like we are in the True Christian camp, but...

Can there be "gray areas" in what drives us?

Can there be "gray areas" in our conduct, which ultimately are indicators of our heart condition?

Is it possible for us to think we are the right manner of person but really not be?

Can we be more in the middle and not necessarily fully in either camp?

Can we be lukewarm?

If so, how do we know if we are abiding in the gray areas?

And how do we know if we are exhibiting character traits through our conduct that are not godly?

How do we know?!?

You might say, well Bro. Todd, I think I have a good idea what I am doing.

Brethren, in light of the scriptural admonitions, I don't think it is that easy.

We are going to examine a scriptural example of the end result of living and growing in a gray area ultimately leading to sin.

Prov 6:16-19 – These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Isn't it interesting that all of these traits are regularly practiced in Corporate America by people who are climbing the ladder?

How important is it for us not to participate in these sins.

How many of us thought of the Pharisees when listening to this scripture?

The sin of the Pharisees was that their flesh created a nice little comfort zone by taking the works of the Law to the nth degree. They arrived at a knowledge destination! Built upon with Human Mindedness. (Matt. 15:1-9)

How did they arrive at this knowledge destination? Answer: By not making U-turns when they ventured into gray areas. There were political interests, legalism, pride, selfishness. Brethren, quite simply, the leaven of the Pharisees was that they were overcome by their lusts. They created a grandiose superstructure of doctrine for themselves and added to this a huge diabolical rule-set to the foundation of a simple pure Law once given to the Nation of Israel. They created rules that regulated every little corner of life so they could measure and be measured.

Are we in danger of doing the same thing with the faith once delivered purely to the saints? With the Harvest Message? Are we in danger of letting the effects of pursuing this course affect ourselves? Our brethren? Our circle of fellowship?

The Pharisees didn't all of a sudden arrive at this new-found knowledge destination overnight. They built upon it little by little, line upon line, precept upon precept. They were deceived by what they thought was right.... but was in fact very wrong!

Now, the Pharisees were not inherently evil people, they were probably inherently good people, but through character deficiencies, they let the luster of the pure law become tarnished with their polluted doctrine.

So much so, when Jesus came on the scene during His first advent, He had to "peel away" that diabolical rule-set and reveal the Pharisees for what they had become---

prideful, selfish ingrates more loyal to a political environment generated by a blind eye and a deaf ear than to the pure word of God.

Brethren, how can well-meaning people go wrong?

The sober reality is that we can have the best of intentions and still be dead wrong.

G. H. Experience in Boston

Brethren, can we be wrong even if we think we are right?

We are going to spend the rest of our session answering this question. This will be profitable because the answer brings personal relevance to Peter's admonition. To find the answer, we will ask three questions.

How do we change?

How does God show us what to change?

How do we know if we are really changing?

1. How do we change?

James 4:6-8, 10 - 6 ... Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

By being Humble

Define Humility – Submitting to the sanctifying hand of God.

Faithful is He who has called you ... who will also do it. 1 Thess 5:24

Are we letting God do it?

Are we letting God work-out His will in us? - Our sanctification 1 Thess 4:3

Moses was the meekest man in all the earth. Moses was the paragon of humility.

Ex 6:30 – “And Moses said before the LORD, Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?”

Are we clouding God's will with our will? Our Fears? Our Hesitations?

Are we being submissive to the hand of God? Or are we polluting his work in us by exercising our own will?

The scriptural admonition is to “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.” Isn't it interesting the Apostle Peter uses the word heart.

1 Peter 3:15 – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

Do we see the pattern that Peter is teaching us? First heart, then doctrine, then works – Humble works are a natural outgrowth of a pure heart and the proper in-working of doctrine.

Saul, the Pharisee of the Pharisees did make the U-turn and he changed when confronted by Jesus. It is interesting to see that Jesus used one of the brethren to “show him the way.”

Acts 9:15-17 - But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

God uses the Brethren to communicate with us.

2. How does God show us what to change?

Through our submission to His Anointed... Jesus. Matt 16:24 – “If any man will come...” How many throughout history have not submitted themselves to the Lord’s anointed and suffered as a result?

What about the Jewish Nation to Jesus.

What about Pharaoh to Moses.

What about the Pharisees to Jesus.

World to Jesus.

Isa 55:10-11 - For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Are we letting the Word of God prosper in us?

Are we making the U-Turns that are indicated by God?

How does God work with us to show us what changes we need to make?

This was an important question for me to ponder.

Ultimately through His Anointed but let’s break this down in 4 parts to see how Jesus, God’s anointed speaks to us.

Psalm 2:2 – Everyone would be OK if they would only submit to God’s anointed!

First Way - Study/Prayer/Holy Spirit - (Obvious)

We might be studying the scriptures but are we listening to them?

We might be collecting a lot of data of doctrine about the Harvest Message but are we converting that data into information?

Is the information having its intended effect in us?

Are we becoming better for it?

Are we freely letting the Holy Spirit have it's course in our bodies?

Author Peter Senge: "We often spend too much time coping with problems along our path that we forget why we are on that path in the first place. The result is that we only have a dim or even inaccurate view of what really is important to us."

Wasn't that the sin of the Pharisees?

2 Tim 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

This is a great scripture to rest on but there are no pews in the Church of God!

Submitting to Study/Prayer/Holy Spirit is an active process that involves both the head and the heart and the proper relationship and discernment of the Body of Christ.

We might be doing a lot of studying and praying but...:

Are we listening to God's answers to our prayers?

Are we listening to the tuggings of the Holy Spirit?

Hey Todd, you really messed up here, you need to repent and change or suffer the consequences.

People who are excellent at listening to the tuggings of the Holy Spirit live in a continual learning mode. They never arrive. Sanctification is not something you possess, it is a process.

Phil 3:15 - Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

God is speaking to us through Study/Prayer/Holy Spirit... are we listening to him?

Speeding one night – reminded by people in car.

Answer to prayer that God would protect my family!

Said something at dinner table – reminded by wife and son.

Answer to prayer that I might be a good example!

Interesting point Pastor makes about Psalm 2: The King, who has come to rule in righteousness and whose presence and power is now forcing upon the minds of men the perplexing questions of the hour. R1519:3 The kings of the earth do not know that by attempting to uphold their present institutions they are really fighting against the establishment of the Lord's Kingdom. R1385:1, R1425:5

What are the perplexing questions of the hour for us?

Rom. 12:2 – Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind!

Are we attempting to uphold the present institutions of our flesh?

If we are, the Lord will have us in derision.

Are we impeding the in-working of the Holy Spirit in our bodies? Sometimes, it is not so easy to know if we are or not.

Conclusion: God tells us what to change through Study/Prayer/Holy Spirit!

Second Way – Through the Brethren - You know when Paul confronted Peter about Peter's wrong treatment of the uncircumcised it was the best thing that happened to Peter. It required a public rebuke because it was a public sin.

Now, Peter knew the doctrine that there was no benefit to being Jew or Greek, bond or free but he needed this experience to develop his character. Brethren, doctrine by itself, does not develop character. Owen Quote: – “We learn to grow by walking on rocks.” God tells us what to change in ourselves through our brethren!

Third Way - Our Experiences-we are told that sometimes our experiences are fiery trials. Are we listening to the Lord in our trials?

Or are we, as the pastor says, “walking according to our own will.” When we have these fiery trials, are we failing to take the U-turns that God is indicating in them?

When Jesus glanced at Peter after the rooster crowed three times. What did Peter do? He recognized his sin, admitted it, to at least himself, and changed. In a nutshell, Peter submitted to the Lord's anointed... Jesus!

James 4:1-5 - From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Many times our flesh gets in our way as we try to do God's will. We should have no confidence in our flesh because in it dwelleth no good thing.

King David recognized that his lusts that were manifested in his actions originated in his heart.

Ps 51:10 - Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. We need to pay attention to our heart and make sure we completely turn it over to Jesus!

Prov 23:26 - My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Simple two part request, turn our heart over to Jesus

Keep our eyes on Him.

God tells us what to change through our experiences!

Fourth Way - Enlightenment-we are guaranteed enlightenment.

John 16:13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Is it possible for the Holy Spirit to show us things and us not see them?

Yes, when our flesh is not in complete subjection to our New Creature.

AHA experiences are the most valuable for growth.

One of my AHA experiences was to find out the difference between “Anxiety” and “Creative Tension.”

Matt 6:34 - Take therefore no (anxious) thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

God tells us what to change through enlightenment!

3. How do we know if we are really changing?

Well brethren, we gotta look for the indicators.

What do the indicators say?

Heb 12:11 – “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Are we being chastened? Maybe we need to change?! Maybe we are not listening to the Lord’s Anointed?!

No chastening -- Establishment in the faith is gained by a gradual steady growth under the discipline of suffering. Corrections in doctrine and character.

It yieldeth -- A manifestation of the indwelling of the Lord's spirit. Their hearts, being fully submissive and anxious to learn, they rejoice therein.

The peaceable fruit -- Blessed effects. R5395:5 Meekness, gentleness, patience, love.

R5899:3 The lessons of experience and discipline have made you stronger, increased your faith, and drawn you into closer communion and fellowship with the Lord. R4897:3.

Open the window and look outside. Sometimes we bury our nose in a book too much and don’t relate what we read to what is happening outside!

We use this “window” metaphor to prove the Second Presence of Christ. This is a knowledge Destination. We see evidences of the establishment of Israel, times of Trouble, increased knowledge and speed of transportation.

We should go on to apply the metaphor by looking at ourselves and consider the effect of our works.

Are you having too many trials along the same line of weakness?

Maybe you are not changing!

Remember Jer. 17:9? Verses 9&10 are bookends. Jer. 17:10 - I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. – ZAP!

If we don't learn it the first time, God will give us the same experience over and over until we learn it.

Conclusion

So What Manner of Persons are We Anyway?

Answer:

We are what we are becoming.

We are in control of our own destiny.

God has given us all of the tools to be faithful.

Gal 6:7-9 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2 Peter 1:5-8 - And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What are we becoming?

The answer is unique to each of us because it is dictated by how we as individuals submit to the sanctifying power of God.

Brethren, we will be the ones responsible for determining what we are becoming. Our consecrated walk is not merely a path of searching for the right doctrine, Paul directed us to be fully submissive to a thorough cleansing... a washing of the water by the Word.

To be faithful requires a complete submission to the Lord's Anointed through Prayer/Study/The In-working of the Holy Spirit, submission to our brethren, submission to our experiences and submission to the Word of God.

Brethren, 2 Peter 3:11-14 is telling us that the Harvest Message is a "leaping-off" point for us to be exercised by the Holy Spirit. Peter is plainly stating that the will of God for us is not just a Body of Knowledge but a character transformation. REPEAT

Scriptural advice to young people

Prov 3:3-8 – Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Be honest with yourselves. You can lie to yourselves and sometimes you will get away with it, you can lie to others and sometimes you will get away with it but you can't lie to God and get away with it.

Develop excellent character traits while you are young and you will be successful beyond your wildest imaginations.

Be strong young Men and Women of God!

Scriptural advice to young marrieds

Honor the lord with thy substance both physical and spiritual.

1 Tim 4:12 - Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Scriptural advice to middle age

My Age – vigorous pursuit of the truth in scripture and in yourselves.

Let the Lord's Word do its work in you.

Proverbs 16:31 - The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Be diligent about submitting to the Anointed of the Lord.

If you do this, it will be like hitching your wagon to a star. God will pull you to faithfulness... if you let Him.

Scriptural advice to the mature brethren

Be a good example, be steadfast.

Be a mentor – Paul to Timothy - 1 Tim 4:14 - Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Heb. 2:1-3 - Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

2 Peter 3:11-14 - Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,

and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Phil 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Extra Research

Pharisees

Peoples Pulpit, Volume 4, Number 8

THE LOST KEY OF KNOWLEDGE

“Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the Key of Knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.” Luke 11:52

As an illustration: When the common people heard Jesus gladly they were unwilling to trust their own judgments, but inquired, “Have any of the Scribes and Pharisees believed on Him?” Have the Doctors of the Law, the Doctors of Divinity, endorsed Him? They have made a study of these things and we would rely more upon their judgment than upon our own. But none of the Scribes and Pharisees endorsed Him, and hence comparatively few of the people believed Him and became His disciples.

The common people were hungry for the Message which Jesus brought. It is recorded that they said of Jesus teachings, “Never man spake like this Man.” (John 7:48) The nation would have gone over promptly to Jesus had the Scribes and Pharisees, the Doctors of the Law, set the example and given the word. Moreover, the teachings of Jesus harmonized the message of the Law and the Prophets over which the Scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees had long wrangled and disputed. Had the Doctors of the Law been as hungry for the Truth as were the people, undoubtedly all of their differences of interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures would have speedily been solved in the light of the then Present Truth and knowledge of God, which was shining upon the Bible through

the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Apostles being Jehovah's mouthpieces.

5th Discipline Thoughts

People with high levels of personal mastery are continually expanding their ability to create the results in life they truly seek.

A determination to find the root cause of the problems in our relationships.

People who blame others for their problems are powerless to change.

We should approach our life as a creative work, living life from a creative as opposed to reactive viewpoint.

Be proactive, don't be put on your heels.

Heb 4:14-16 - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We often spend too much time coping with problems along our path that we forget why we are on that path in the first place. The result is that we only have a dim or even inaccurate view of what really is important to us.

Personal Mastery – The essence of personal mastery is learning how to generate and sustain creative tension in our lives. A special level of proficiency in every aspect of life.

For people with a high level of personal mastery they have a special sense of purpose that lies behind their visions and goals. For such a person, a vision is a calling rather than simply a good idea. They see current reality as an ally not an enemy.

Where are you now?

Where do you want to be?

How are you going to get there?

People with a high level of personal mastery live in a continual learning mode. They never arrive. Personal mastery is not something you possess, it is a process.

True Happiness found through serving others

Full emotional development offers the greatest degree of leverage in attaining our full potential.

People with high levels of personal mastery are more committed.

Creative Tension – the force that brings together our vision with current reality.

Take no anxious thought for the morrow