

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



More Truth from the Past!

An excerpt from the writings of C.H. Mackintosh

Let us remember this. Let it sink down into the very deepest depths of our moral being. Nothing can rob us of the blessings and privileges flowing from obedience. The truth of this shines out before our eyes, in every section and on every page of the volume of God. At all times, in all places, and under all circumstances, the obedient soul was happy in God, and God was happy in him. It always holds good, whatever be the character of the dispensation, that, "To this man will I look, even to him who is of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word."

Nothing can ever alter or touch this. It meets us in the fourth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy, in the words with which this section opens, "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments which I teach you, for to do, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you" It meets us in those precious words of our Lord, in John 14., on which we have been dwelling: "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me,". And again, "If a man love me, he will keep my sayings."*

It shines with peculiar brightness, in the words of the inspired apostle John, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him." (1 John 3:21-24.)

There is an interesting difference between the Lord's "commandments" and "sayings." The former set forth, distinctly and definitely, what we ought to do; the latter are the expression of His mind. If I give my child a command, it is the statement of his duty; and if he loves me, he will delight to do it. But if he has heard me say I like to see such a, thing done, although I have not actually told him to do it, it will touch my heart much more deeply to see him go and do that thing, in order to gratify me, than if I had given him a positive command. Now, ought we not to try and please the heart of Christ? Should we not "labor to be agreeable to him?"

He has made us accepted; surely we ought to seek, in every possible way, to be acceptable to Him. He delights in a loving obedience; it was what He Himself rendered to the Father. "I delight to do thy will; yes, thy law is within my heart." "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Oh! that we may drink more deeply into the spirit of Jesus, walk in His blessed footsteps, and render him a more loving, devoted and whole-hearted obedience, in all things. Let us earnestly seek after these things, beloved Christian reader, that His heart may be gratified, and His Name glorified in us, and in our entire practical career from day to day.

Passages might easily be multiplied, but there is no need. Those which we have quoted set before us, in the clearest and fullest way possible, the very highest motive for obedience, namely, its being agreeable to the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ — well pleasing to God. True, we owe a hearty obedience on every ground.

"We are not our own; we are bought with a price." We owe our life, our peace, our righteousness, our salvation, our everlasting felicity and glory, all to Him; so that nothing can exceed the moral weight of His claims upon us for a life of whole-hearted obedience. But, above and beyond His moral claims stands the marvelous fact that His heart is gratified, His spirit refreshed by our keeping His commandments, and doing those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Beloved Christian reader, can anything exceed the moral power of such a motive as this? Only think of our being privileged to give pleasure to the heart of our beloved Lord! What sweetness, what interest, what preciousness, what holy dignity it imparts to every little act of obedience, to know that it is grateful to the heart of our Father! How far beyond the legal system is this! It is a most perfect contrast, in its every phase and every feature. The difference between the legal system and Christianity is the difference between death and life, bondage and liberty, condemnation and righteousness, distance and nearness, doubt and certainty. How monstrous the attempt to amalgamate these two things — to work them up into one system, as though they were but two branches from the one stem! What hopeless confusion must be the result of any such effort! How terrible the effect of seeking to place souls under the influence of the two things! As well might we attempt to combine the sun's meridian beams with the profound darkness of midnight. Looked at from a divine and heavenly standpoint, judged in the light of the New Testament, measured by the standard of the heart of God, the mind of Christ, there could not be a more hideous anomaly than that which presents itself to our view in Christendom's effort to combine law and grace.

And as to the dishonor done to God; the wound inflicted on the heart of Christ, the grief and despoil offered to the Holy Ghost, the damage done to the truth of God, the grievous wrong perpetrated upon the beloved lambs and sheep of the flock of Christ, the terrible stumbling-block thrown in the way of both Jew and Gentile, and, in short, the serious injury done to the entire testimony of God, during the last eighteen centuries, the judgment-seat of Christ can alone

declare it; and oh! what an awful declaration that will be! It is too tremendous to contemplate.

But there are many pious souls, throughout the length and breadth of the professing church, who conscientiously believe that the only possible way to produce obedience, to attain to practical holiness, to secure a godly walk, to keep our evil nature in order, is to put people under the law. They seem to fear that if souls are taken from under the schoolmaster, with his rod and rudiments, there is an end to all moral order. In the absence of the authority of law, they look for nothing but hopeless confusion. To take away the ten commandments, as a rule of life, is, in their judgment, to remove those grand moral embankments which the hand of God has erected to stem the tide of human lawlessness.

We can fully understand their difficulty. Most of us have had to encounter it, in one shape or another. But we must seek to meet it in God's way. It is of no possible use to cling, with fond tenacity, to our own notions, in the face of the plainest and most direct teaching of holy scripture. We must, sooner or later, give up all such notions. Nothing will—nothing can stand but the word of our God — the voice of the Holy Ghost the authority of scripture — the imperishable teachings of that peerless Revelation which our Father has, in His infinite grace, put into our hands.

To that we must listen, with profound and reverent attention; to it we must bow down, with unquestioning and unqualified obedience. We must not presume to hold a single opinion of our own. God's opinion (DVPT) must be ours. We must clear out all the rubbish which, by the influence of mere human teaching, has accumulated in our minds, and have every chamber thoroughly cleansed by the action of the word and Spirit of God, and thoroughly ventilated by the pure and bracing air of the new creation.

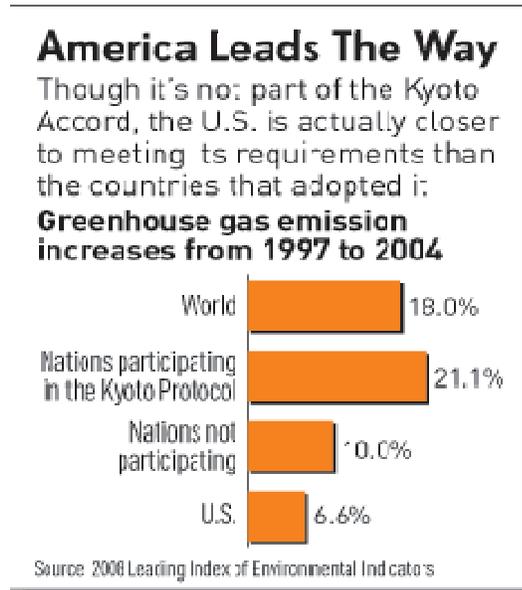
Where Credit Is Due

By INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Climate Change: Hear the one about the United States having to sacrifice and sign the Kyoto pact if the world is to be saved from global warming?

It's turning out to be as bogus as the warming theory itself.

Our European friends have made a lot of noise about the U.S. refusing to commit to the Kyoto accord in which signatory nations are supposed to cut their greenhouse gas emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by 2012.



"Isn't the U.S. an awful country?" a Labor Party member of the British Parliament said some years ago. "With only 5% of the world's population, it produces 20% of those terrible gases that are warming our atmosphere. How dare President Bush say he won't go along with the U.N.'s Kyoto Protocol on global warming."

It was actually Bill Clinton, not George Bush, who was in power when the treaty was signed by Vice President Al Gore in 1997 and who neglected to send it to the Senate for approval. Maybe the Clinton White House decided it wasn't worth the effort since the Senate, recognizing a con game, had passed a resolution 97-0 saying it wouldn't ratify the pact unless developing nations had to follow it as well.

But even without the taskmaster of the Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. is doing a better job of holding down its greenhouse gas emissions than countries that were so eager — for politically correct reasons, of course — to be a party (see chart).

But that's not enough. Critics, both foreign and domestic, want to shackle the U.S. economy far more than they want to stop the threat of global

warming. They know they need the hardships imposed by Kyoto to achieve that.

Like most popular causes, global warming is about appearances. The U.S. hasn't been eager to enter into Kyoto, so its results are ignored by the scolds in Europe who wouldn't be able to meet the requirements of the accord even if the U.S. did.

But in the wonderland world of climate change, it's what you believe, not what you do, that counts.

New Recipe for Primordial Soup

Acts 17:25

Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.

One of the most difficult problems for those who believe in evolution is to explain the origin of life without reference to God.

Science is now aware that even the elementary living cell is, in reality, extremely complex and it has become increasingly difficult to explain this without a Creator God. The most popular explanation says that the early earth had an atmosphere of ammonia, methane, hydrogen, and water. Oxygen had to be absent because it pretty much ruins the chemical reactions that are needed to form even simple biological molecules. It was also important that this early earth be protected from ultraviolet radiation, which also ruins the chemistry.

But this picture of the early earth has been shown to be totally inaccurate. For one thing, geologists can see from the oldest rocks that the earth has always had plenty of oxygen in its atmosphere. Then astronomers have pointed out that a younger sun would be turning out 10,000 times more ultraviolet radiation than it does now.

Modern science is finding out that what the Bible says is true. Scientists just won't admit it. The earth has always had oxygen, since life needing oxygen has been around from the first week that the earth existed. And life can only be explained as the work of the Source and Author of life, our Creator God.

References: Patrick Huyghe. *New Recipe for Cosmic Soup*. *Science Digest*, May 1983. P. 42-44.