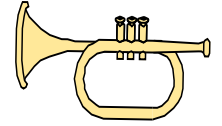


REVEILLE



THE READING OF THE WILL

By: Travis Lewis

PREFACE: The objective of the following article is to alert every reader to a certain future judgment. Though the date is already assigned, only sovereign God knows its chronology. For every individual in whatever household or hemisphere, this day of accounting awaits in the not-so-distant future. Written as an allegory, its intent is to encourage each of us to audit our true relationship with God, as well as to review paradigms and habits that will be brought into either graciously commending or terribly costly judgment. Most will readily recognize the Executor as typifying our Lord, Jesus the Christ. We should find the other characters easily identifiable. At times, a mirror may suffice for immediate association. If so, then this effort has been successful! Please follow it closely and soberly, for the scenes described in these contents are not tailored for chuckles. This portion of REVEILLE will be spread over multiple, but consecutive, issues. I acknowledge my acute inability to fathom either the majesty or chronology of final judgment. Even so, in allegory, I must offer this solemn effort.

Scene: A massive court filled with countless throngs of people; a snow-white judgment bar is positioned before the court, and in the chair behind the bar sits the judge, one who will preside over this gathering that surpasses all others in eternity past. Referred to as the "executor", he begins:

Executor: Know all present that we have gathered today to open & reveal to all parties the will of my father, who is wealthy indeed. In these fields of your past labor, the final harvest has ended, and work has permanently ceased. The farm and all appurtenances have been liquidated. Another very large home place has been prepared for those found to be true family -- those having been legally adopted. From this new home, you will not be moved, separated, nor displaced. The peace and security it offers, you have at best experienced as through only a dark glass during your closest communion with us in these former fields. To this haven, you are about to be ferried.

Seeing countless attempts to circumvent the prescribed process of adoption through my office as his only son, he has chosen to once and for all identify those who have been legally accepted into the family and to reward them according to their efforts on this good land we left in your charge. All aliens to this commonwealth will be permanently separated.

Today has no precedent in history. Before me, you all stand - having lived in all ages and for various spans of time. I saw each of you born, laden with the nature of your earthly father. That nature violates and ignores the immutable laws of my father. The master of the farm on which you were born, though liberated for a season, had already been irrevocably sentenced. His ruthless goal was to enviously retain you in bondage throughout your life and for you to share his dreadful lot. Each of your ancestors having violated our covenant, all were born

(Continued on page 3)



TRUST

By: Travis Lewis

We instinctively trust those whose personalities are founded upon correct principles. Technique is relatively unimportant when compared to trust, which is the fruit of our trustworthiness over time. When trust is high, we communicate easily, effortlessly, instantaneously. Though we err, others still capture our meaning. When trust is low, communications are exhausting, time-consuming ineffective, and inordinately difficult. Success on any plane of life, depends on trust - trust extended from ourselves to others as well as trust extended from others to us. When trust is betrayed, tendencies are to vow never to trust the betraying party again, or to "wait" until trust is re-earned. This can present quite a paradox. If trust results in trustworthiness over time, and we have vowed to not trust, then the offending brother or sister never has the opportunity to prove their trustworthiness, even in the smallest matters.

While studying trust, clarity comes easier when we reference the pattern of our Lord. We must wholeheartedly agree upon his trustworthiness. When tried, he invariably proves trustworthy. But how did HE respond to those to whom he committed trust, only to experience their betrayal? One who passionately leaned on his breast at the Passover, in a few hours, would act the part of rank stranger. With another was entrusted the virtual pastorate of His infant church and, on the eve of the crucifixion, would, out of his love for the Lord, physically challenge the decree of Roman power. The same friend, however, would lose his resolve and even curse the very Son of God before next break of day. With what agonizing feelings of betrayal would we have viewed such a response from our friends? And how natural the thought, "How could I have trusted them in the first place?"

Being Lord, He knew beforehand their fleshly weakness. He warned of their lack of trustworthiness that would show in time of trial, though

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NONE DARE CALL IT... PREJUDICE

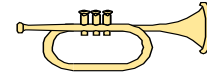
Few are immune to it. Few are innocent of it. Few realize its presence within, and fewer confess it for what it is. Few have the fortitude and love to warn of it, and fewer accept such warning with much gratitude.

We love to 'feel' Christlike, yet no mindset is more un-Christ-like and forbids his favor more than this age-old, self-exalting paradigm of PREJUDICE. Prejudice was the attitude that drew the ire of Jesus upon the religious moguls during his ministry on

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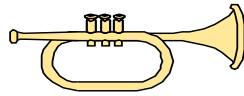


REVELLE



ON PREACHING: "We are generally longest when we have least to say. A man with a great deal of well-prepared matter will probably not exceed forty minutes; when he has less to say he will go on for fifty minutes, and when he has absolutely nothing, he will need an hour to say it in."

(Go to pg.5 to find the author of this parcel.)



The way to improve the taste of salt is to sprinkle a little beef steak on it.

WHO,WHAT, WHEN, WHERE??

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AT SATAN'S CONVENTION

The following article was contributed by Don and Myra Walker of Jackson, Tennessee. Portions have been edited for brevity and clarity.

If Satan convened all his angels to instruct them on greater success, and at the beginning of the meeting, he should give a keynote address, would the following fit the plan we observe materializing before our eyes?

"Comrades, we can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience in Christ. If they gain and maintain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken.

So let them go to their churches, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't maintain that fellowship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, angels. Distract them from remembering their relationship with their Savior and from maintaining that vital fellowship throughout their day!"

"This is our plan. Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days a week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their home will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. To keep the TV, VCR, CD and PC going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store and public place in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that vital fellowship with Christ."

"Fill the coffee table with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes.

Keep beautiful models on the magazines so the husbands and young sons will believe that external beauty is what's really important.

This will fragment those families quickly!"

Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the

(Continued on page 5)

LEST WE PLOT AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS

LAY NOT WAIT, O WICKED MAN, AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS; SPOIL NOT HIS RESTING PLACE; FOR A JUST MAN FALLETH SEVEN TIMES, AND RISETH UP AGAIN...Prov.24:15-16

"BLESSED IS HE THAT WATCHETH"

(This article is condensed from Charles Spurgeon's 'MORNING AND EVENING DEVOTIONS'. Keep in mind that this was written over 130 years ago,)

"We die daily," said the apostle. This was literally the life of the early Christian; wherever they journeyed, their lives were in constant jeopardy. We are not this day called to pass through the same fearful persecutions: if we were, the Lord would give us grace to bear the test; but the tests of Christian life, at the present moment, though outwardly not so terrible, are yet more likely to overcome us than even those of that fiery age.

We have to bear the sneer of the world. That is little; its blandishments, its soft words, its oily speeches, its fawning, its hypocrisy, are far worse. Our danger is lest we grow rich and become proud, lest we give ourselves up to the fashions of this present evil world, and lose our faith. Or if wealth be not the trial, worldly care is quite as mischievous.

Whether we are torn to pieces by the lion, or hugged to death by the bear, the devil little cares which it is, so long as he destroys our love to Christ, and our confidence in him. I fear that the Christian church is far more likely to lose her integrity in these soft and silken days than in those rougher times.

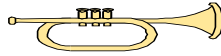
Many in these days of easy profession are likely to prove tares, and not wheat; hypocrites with fair masks on their faces, but not the true-born children of the living God. Christian, do not think that these are times in which you can dispense with watchfulness or with holy ardour; you need these things more than ever, and may God the eternal Spirit display his omnipotence in you, that you may be able to say, in all these softer things, as well as in the rougher, "We are more that conquerors through him that loved us. "

REMEMBERING & *

FORGETTING

May I always remember to forget, the things that made me sad; but never forget to remember, the things that made me glad. May I remember to forget the ones that proved not a friend, but not to forget to remember, those that stuck 'till the end!

**THE SPEED OF THE LEADER
IS THE SPEED OF THE PACK!**



He becometh poor who dealeth with a slack hand, but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.Prov.10:4
Lesson: Laziness brings poverty;diligence brings wealth.

AMERICA'S GOD & COUNTRY

(Taken from America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations" by William J. Federer)

In December of 1984, President Ronald Reagan gave an address at the enactment of the "Equal Access Bill of 1984".

"In 1962, the Supreme Court in the New York prayer case banned the...saying of prayers. In 1963, the Court banned the reading of the Bible in our public schools. From that point on, the courts pushed the meaning of the ruling ever outward, so that now our children are not allowed voluntary prayer... We even had to pass a law—pass a special law in Congress a few weeks ago – to allow student prayer groups the same access to school rooms after classes that a Young Marxist Society, for example, would already enjoy with no opposition...The 1962 decision opened the way to a flood of similar suits. Once religion had been made vulnerable, a series of assaults were made in one court after another, on one issue after another...Cases were started to argue against tax-exempt status for churches. Suits were brought to abolish the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, and to remove "In God We Trust" from public documents and from our currency...Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience...without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure...If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."

First grader: My pastor is huge!
Teacher: How much does he weigh?
First grader: Two-hundred and..... plenty!

DIRECTION CREATES TIME!?



THE READING OF THE WILL *(Continued from page 1)*

aliens to our family and destined for a few days filled with the sweat of their brow and consumed with trouble. Without one who was wholly innocent of violation of my Fathers laws to pay your ransom with his very lifeblood, your life of hard labor was to be terminated by a sentence of eternal punishment alongside the master of your birthplace. Throughout all the land, a search for an advocate was futile. Justice must be served, so the only one found with such innocence to pay the price was myself - the only begotten of my father. Most of you have heard this before. Now, *you shall understand judgment.*

Regardless of race or creed, each of you has harbored desires to be counted as members of this family, and have exerted various manners and degrees of effort to attain such. Every effort, thought, and motive of each person of all ages is recorded with infinite accuracy within the book before you. As you see, this book is sizable, and we may call it our *Policy Manual*. Of this volume, I am co-author. We have specially charged some of you to study, rightly divide, and dispense the provisions of this manual to the others. When sought for help, we have offered explanation of our every intent. Though often short-circuited, we have offered direct lines of communication both to and from our throne located on this high hill from which this record was written. Having understood your mission, all of our true children have been charged to dispense it to all and deny it to none. By the contents of this volume, each will be equally judged, and to the verdict of this court, there will be neither appeal nor recourse".

With excited expectation, all those present move toward the bar and fasten their attention upon the executor. He begins by asking that, as each person's name is called, they advance to the front of the room; then, standing before the executor, each is to state the reason for his hope of being a beneficiary of this vast estate. Following the statement, each name, he explains, would be researched from the will and his inheritance revealed. Again, the countless throngs are reminded that these proceedings will forever settle any claims to this estate -- appointing awards to true sons and daughters and purging all impostors. With that, the court is open.

One known as Ms.Goshup is called before the bar as judgment begins.

Executor: What claim do you have in this family?

Ms. Goshup: Sir, you remember one that worked in your fields named Ms. Chattersworth? She was a friend of mine. While I was employed on that horrible farm next door, she and I had regular communications. She kept telling me how great it was to be identified with you on this wonderful place! So one day she invited me to just come on over and begin work. She was even kind enough to tell me lots of things about other workers that you probably wouldn't want to hear. My friend was wary of everything happening, both during and after work was ceased at day's end. Of course, her job never really was to do much

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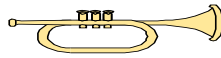
Note to ministers..and attendants: Nobody sleeps while he expects to hear something to his advantage. I never did hear of a person going to sleep while a will was being read. C.H.Spurgeon

If you've done big things in life you must expect criticism. It's only people who've done precious little who get no criticism at all. Margaret Thatcher



REVELLE

**A LEADER IS EASY TO RECOGNIZE.
HE IS THE ONE WITH THE ARROWS
IN HIS BACK!**



**DON'T TELL ME WHAT I DO RIGHT.
I KNOW THAT. WHAT I NEED TO
KNOW IS WHAT I DO WRONG.**

Albert Einstein

TRUST *(Continued from page 1)*

they just 'knew' such would never occur. "Not me, Lord. My love for you is too deep and our ties too strong for me to deny or forsake you. ", was the essence of their argument. From this scene of the "last supper" they soon departed into the night, as Jesus made His way to the Garden of Gethsemane. While awaited by "friends", He communed with the Father one final before meeting the destiny for which He came. No sooner had His prayer concluded than appeared His captors, and the "friends", who had considered themselves trustworthy, would soon vanish. All night He would spend - shackled and forsaken, without witness of His innocence and with no thought of escaping the death He knew was eminent. At midmorning next day, He was taken to Golgotha, where, though the very Son of God, he hang as a public spectacle, between the heavens and earth for the sins of even His closest friends. Before dark, He would be dead – taken from this dreadful scene and laid in a tomb donated by a sympathizer. Still little sign of those from whom He had received the assurance, "You can trust me, Lord."

(Reference John 21:1-17) Three days and three nights would pass as his trusted friends surely agonized over how it had all ended – or so they thought. Simon Peter, whom three days before had felt totally invincible, had bitterly repented of his infidelity. Can we doubt his desire for one more opportunity to be trusted by his Lord? All appeared lost. His Lord was dead. Three times he had denied the very One from whom he had witnessed those countless miracles. On Peter's conscience must have weighed the thought of having actually cursed the Son of God. Can we doubt the anguish under which the apostle labored as he reminisced the exhilarating experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, along with others which hang profoundly heavy in his memory? Depression and despondency surely settled progressively heavier on the heart of Simon Peter, as thoughts of his failures were gradually erasing hope of ever again enjoying fellowship with the One at whose feet he yearned to sit once more. However, Peter was learning a lesson, one that would serve all of us well – that THIS SIDE OF DEATH, THERE IS HOPE FOR ONE WITH A TRULY PENITENT SPIRIT! Peter would go fishing, convinced he had forfeited his fondest hope of advancing his Savior's cause. Tired from laboring through the night, little must Peter have expected as the morning broke – suddenly, there He was on the shore! Startled, he turned to his partner John, only to hear John exclaim, "**It's the Lord!**". Though this is probably his third encounter with the Savior since the resurrection, for the first time, Peter is visibly touched with His presence.

Excited & apparently with a feeling of appearing immodest, he quickly replaces the clothing removed under conditions which he thought no one would notice, and without attention to either those around him or to the great catch of fish, into the sea he thrusts himself, excitedly thrashing his way toward his Lord on the shore. This was obviously the first time Peter realized that Jesus had forever removed the cloud of his humiliating denial. Over the seaside morning meal, making sure that Peter understood the commitment he was about to consummate, Jesus asked, "Do you love me?". Three times the same question was asked with like answers, (paraphrased) "Lord, though I am guilty of atrocious sins, you know my repentance is whole and that I am truly ready to go with you all the way. "

At this point, Peter's life changes, for now he realizes that Jesus is as anxious to forgive the saint as He is to set free the sinner. From this experience of restoration, Peter ceased to be a fisherman and became the evangelist he was destined to become. Only now was Peter really committed. For only now did he understand this dimension of love that Jesus harbors for his own – that he is anxious to forgive upon full repentance -- and to extend opportunity to rebuild trust within His kingdom. Could our experience as His servant be richer if we considered His example?

THE READING OF THE WILL *(Continued from page 3)*

fieldwork. She spent most of her time watching her neighbors during the day, and calling the attention of others to their friends' mistakes. She was so faithful to call me up and keep me informed about our neighbors' laziness, or some secret things they were doing that I must not tell to anyone. When the workers would rest and get together on weekends to sing praise to you and your father, she was always there, and I was with her. We were very faithful in attendance and in gathering with the others when special chores were needing done. You know how that, over the years, I've grown to really look forward to this day when I would finally meet you. Remember, sir?

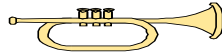
Executor: Ms. Goshup, I am well aware of both you and your friend, whom I will see to in her own time. I knew the position you occupied beside those workers who had been adopted at the gate. I gave fair notice in the Manual of the poison that would be spread by the likes of you and your friend. Though prohibition against such is specially addressed in the ninth of ten axioms in the Policy Manual, you could never understand because you never learned axioms one, two, and three. You are an alien in our fields, having not come through the gate as prescribed. Not only that, but the rumors you spread throughout the ranks of our children were destructive, and your habits were contagious indeed. I have watched with patience for long years, hoping you would hear the words sent through our messengers as they warned of such acts. I long suffered through the years as, time and again, you were admonished to come to me at the gate and gain lawful entry. A few times, you were almost persuaded to come. Your choice to default and "do it like my friend has done it" has been a very poor choice, and time to reconsider has run out. True it is, however, you finally met me. Depart through the wide gate on the left. I never knew you!

Immediately following Ms. Goshup is her friend, Ms. Chattersworth.

(Continued on page 5)

Hiring folks smarter than you
proves you're smarter than
they are.!???
Bits and Pieces

REVELLE



THIS IS A SITUATION UP
WITH WHICH I WILL NOT
PUT!(??)
Winston Churchill

THE READING OF THE WILL *(Continued from page 4)*

Ms. Chattersworth: Excuse me, sir. My voice is trembling. It's been a long time since I saw you and had a personal conversation with you.

Executor: *(Heard to mutter)* It certainly has.

(Ms. Chattersworth pauses and gains her composure following interjection of the Executor.)

Ms. Chattersworth: But I remember the time I came this way as a child. I was so tired of the slavery in which I found myself on the adjoining farm. I heard both the warnings and promises from the Manual being proclaimed by one whom I just knew had to have been with you. I was compelled to come just as I was, asking you to accept me into your fields of labor. It was such a sweet day!! But, you know, sir, I wondered far from that point of entry, and finally I felt completely out of contact with you. Oh, I still gathered with the neighbors on the weekends, and sometimes at midweek meetings. I felt secure in that you claimed me as a child, but nobody seemed to care if I really got to know you better. My interests migrated from becoming more like you to things happening around me. Events seemed so interesting, and many of my neighbors were curious to know so much about those somewhat embarrassing events in the lives of others. Talebearing troubled me somewhat for a while, but after a time, I just sort of thought it was my gift to find out and to tell it. You do remember how I did invite Ms. Goshup to join us in our fields. I was afraid to instruct her to come straight to you as I had done, for I felt that she could see nothing I had gained for having done so myself. I had hoped that those special instructors would have persuaded her to seek legal entry at the gate. It never seemed to happen. I reckon that was because my friend, Ms. Goshup, was without very much 'class', and even less money. Now, sir, I was faithful in attending your periods of praise, and I was always ready to attend to whatever chore handed me to do. That was recorded, wasn't it?

Executor: That was recorded, right. As with others having come this way, the brightest section of your record is your entry at this gate. At that time, I had hoped, however, that upon this return, you could have rendered up much acceptable fruit. How often I longed for you to turn your eyes toward the hills of our lodging and ask forgiveness for forgetting us; and we would have appreciated just a regular 'thank you'. Both got to be really few. And how often was I sorely saddened at the grief your unbridled tongue wrought upon my other children – even some who had erred as they struggled in our fields. You heard much of the Manual taught while regarding it as a mere ritual, and all the while, your friend, Ms. Goshup, was watching you - and following. Ms. Chattersworth, your name is indeed found in this book. Despite your many failures and much neglect, we have not erased your name. However, your loss is great! All that time you wasted, and all the opportunities to grow and do genuine good, are irretrievable. The greater portion of your works bring no reward, but loss. Yet, of all those once accepted of me and my father, I promised to lose none. Pass through the narrow gate to your right.

In future issues, we will meet Mr. Lightmind, Ms. Younger, Mr. Oldman, Mr. Songman, Ms. Brawlero, Mr. Deconicus, Mr. Titemun, Mr. Notsubig, Ms. Divoree, along with Mr. McMinster and his sons, as well as others to whom we may find striking familiarity.

(Continued from page 2)

AT SATAN'S CONVENTION

coming week. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy!! And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions."

"Go ahead, let them be involved in 'soul winning'. But crowd their lives with so many 'good' causes that they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the 'good of the cause'. It will work! It will work!!"

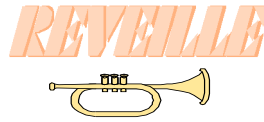
Are you BUSY? "But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad..." Psalms 4:11

****WHEN OUR OUTGO EXCEEDS OUR INCOME, OUR UPKEEP HAS BECOME OUR****
******DOWNFALL!?!******

ON ETERNAL SECURITY — The story is told of an old Irish preacher being kidded about his continual preaching of the doctrine of eternal security. "What if, after all your preaching of this doctrine, you would actually lose your salvation?", asked the critic. The answer came immediately, "God would lose much more than I would. I would lose only my salvation, but God would lose his reputation." *(Editor Note: Now that is conviction!!)*

Answer to "ON PREACHING"(cont.frompg2) This was written by Elder Charles Haddon Spurgeon over 125 years ago.

ON REVIVAL: If all the sleeping folk would wake up, and all the lukewarm folk would fire up, and all the dishonest folk would 'fess up, and all the discouraged folk would look



up, and all the gossipers would shut up, and all the true soldiers would stand up, and all the church members would pray up, then we may have a revival!!!!

NONE DARE CALL IT...PREJUDICE

(Continued from page 1)

earth. Their attitude exemplified the one integral of the human heart that will plague our lifelong fellowship with Jesus, unless we continually inspect for its presence. The Pharisees and Sadducees just could not understand Jesus -- how one claiming to be the Messiah could actually sit and eat with publicans and sinners, dregs of their society. What these honest, upright, and sincere religious leaders could not recognize was that within their hearts lay the ugly, decadent seed of 'prejudice'.

"Prejudice" is "an opinion formed without taking time and care to judge fairly; an opinion formed beforehand with no basis except personal feelings". The heart and mind of Jesus was void of such tendencies. The soul of the despised publican drew as much of Jesus interest as did that of the popular, well-respected scribe. John the Baptist refused baptism to some Pharisees without evidence of their hearts and minds having been purged of their previously prevailing prejudice. Only a genuine washing by the Holy Spirit rids one of this perilous brand of pride called 'prejudice'! Those half-breeds called Samaritans were despised simply because of their heritage wrought centuries before. The Apostle Peter lived to be an old man before ridding himself of the prejudicial notion that just because he was of a certain ethnic group, he had a more direct line to Heaven.

What was the mistake of the Pharisees? Their opinions of the publicans were formed before taking time to judge them as Jesus saw them. Their opinions of Jesus -- his eating with known sinners -- were formed beforehand with no basis except personal feelings. For from this pool of publicans, Jesus would choose one to record a detailed account of his life on earth-- the Gospel of Matthew.

What was the mistake of the Jews toward the Samaritans? They judged them unfairly --solely on the basis of their lineage. Likewise, the mistake of Peter, the one that cost him a lecture from Paul, was that he judged all others but Jews as inferior to himself. Gentiles were unfit to eat with, talk with, work with, or even preach to.

Until we can view another as Jesus sees him, prejudice will plague our spiritual growth. How is our fellowship with God fettered with 'prejudice'? Hopefully, the following examples will awaken our awareness to prejudice in our own lives.

How do we view one of another vocation--one whom the world, or even ourselves, may view as less honorable than that of ours? What attitude prevails as we encounter a laborer at what we consider menial tasks? As we cruise by in our dress clothes and air-conditioned vehicle, do we ever-so-secretly entertain an attitude of superiority -- of being smarter, richer, more intelligent, or even having been more favored by God? Do we see him as less deserving than ourselves? Or does piety flow within our hearts as we realize that within his chest is harbored a desire for peace within, just like ourselves; a desire to earn better times for himself and his family? Moreover, does it cross our minds that God may be at least as interested in the concerns of that person's heart as he is with ours? For neither position, power, nor esteem of men elevate us in the sight of God. Remember, elements that sway our judgment do not necessarily impress God at all!

How do we view one of less means than ourselves, even if he is

less diligent by habit? "He could have something too, if he had been willing to work for it.", is a statement we may have heard -- or used, either silently or orally. Such an attitude is born of prejudice! But what if certain 'breaks' had not come our way in life? What if, subconsciously, we have come to the point of reverencing our means more than we ought? Is our prosperity due more to our own ingenuity, or has God given us more that we may return more to him?

How do we view one of another shade of skin color? Much can be determined about one's Christian authenticity by listening to feelings expressed on this one subject. Possibly because skin color is the most obvious of our attributes, this may be the most conducive to prejudice. Atrocious statements revealing blatant prejudicial feelings are often drawn when such topics are mentioned. Comparing different races worshipping together to mixing cows and horses, reminiscing about neighbors of different color visting 'white' services and sitting in the back 'out of respect', boasting of relatives being members of the KKK and 'proud of it' is to admit un-Godly prejudice, regardless of stature in life. (Note: I have personally witnessed these particular statements -- inside church studies or services.) Again, how would Jesus judge such positions of prejudice? Thank God, we don't have to wait until it's too late to know!

How do we view one of another ethnic group? "Those _____, you can't trust any of them." How would we have fared if Jesus had said, "Those Gentiles, you can't trust any of them."? Need more be said?

What do we view as the most atrocious sins? Are they not invariably the ones we do not commit? Examples: 1) How can we be so outraged at the partaking of alcoholic beverages (which of course is foolish) while being forty pounds overweight as a result of gluttony? 2) How can we so adamantly oppose thievery while carrying a lottery ticket, hoping to become richer without work, and at someone else's expense? 3) How can one ridicule adultery in others while being entertained with TV drama depicting the same acts? (If the scenes were not enjoyed, they wouldn't be watched.)

4) How can we find fraud so repulsive, while denying God the tithe? **WHY? When prejudice fills our hearts, the sins of others are always greater our own.**

The Pharisees were morally pure, but had omitted the "weightier matters of the law" -- judgment (opposite of prejudice), mercy, and faith. Matt.23:23 Being void of prejudice, Jesus could see potential for glory in every one he met. He considered the rich and poor alike, Jews and Gentiles without prejudice, and he expects us to do the same. IF JESUS MADE NO DIFFERENCE, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE, REGARDLESS OF OUR 'FEELINGS' OR TRADITIONS. In the eyes of God neither our level of wealth, social standing, skin color, or ethnic heritage is of consequence. What really matters is what we have done with Jesus and our diligence in learning--and practicing- his ways. All else eventually becomes insignificant!!!

Much of the previous article was drawn from a lesson outline by John Lewis, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

Epilogue to Edition 4: Many thanks for your attention to Edition 4 of Reveille. Our sincere hope is that it has planted some worthwhile seeds in your heart that will grow and produce fruit for the Lord. To enlighten and to intensify the efforts of God's people, and to recommend Jesus to all -- this is, and will remain, our lone goal.