

THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART 1

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Being Open To God's Word, Our Will Versus God's Will, We Must Follow Jesus' Example Of Humble Submission, We Belong To God, Let God Decide If You Are To Have A Baby, Using Birth Control And God's Will, U.S. Supreme Court And Roe v. Wade, "My Body, My Choice" Mantra, God Has The Final Say, An Unborn Fetus Is A Unique And Separate Human Being Growing Within, Rejecting God And Becoming Numb To The Conviction Of His Spirit, God's Commandment In Genesis To Be Fruitful And Multiply, Modern Selfish Attitudes Concerning Childbearing, An Heritage Of The Lord, Suffer Little Children And Forbid Them Not, Hired By The Lord, God Will Provide, The Financial Burden Of Having A Baby, Trust In God And Lean On God, Personal Convenience And Selfishness, Lovers Of Pleasures More Than Lovers Of God, Our Sex-Filled World, Is It Safe Sex Or Selfish Sex?, Temptation Of Planned Parenthood, Trust God To Provide, Mass Manipulation Through Fear, The Fear Of Overpopulation, Manipulative Movies, "Soylent Green", "Logan's Run", "ZPG: Zero Population Growth"

Some time ago, a Christian friend wrote to me concerning some questions he had regarding marriage, children and birth control. Although he had read my series entitled "Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent" several times, it seems that he still hadn't been able to come to any firm conclusions in his own heart regarding these matters. Thus, in addition to seeking my advice, he continued to delve into God's Word, hoping to find the Lord's answers to his questions.

In thinking about this situation, the first thing that entered my mind, is that if we are going to search the Scriptures for the truth regarding a certain matter, as did the Bereans in the Book of Acts, we must make certain that it is not a self-defeating process. In others words, if we search the Scriptures with the attitude that our minds are already made up, and if we are only looking for Scriptures which will support what we have already chosen to believe, regardless of what the full counsel of God might tell us,

then we are just wasting our time.

Not only that, but there is an even greater danger. That is that we will also place ourselves in the potential position of falling under delusion. In short, as I point out in other articles which deal with the subject of finding God's Will, such as "What Is God's Will For My Life?", and also "Are You Crucified With Christ?", we must make sure that our will is aligned with God's Will, and that we are not subconsciously and purposely resisting the truth which He may be trying to show us through His Word. In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote the following wise lines:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2, KJV

As you can see, Paul is telling us that in order to find the perfect Will of God, we must make sure that both our body and our mind, is yielded to the Lord in every area. In fact, Paul tells us that we must have a renewed mind. That is to say, we must forsake our own ideas, and what we think is right, and put on the mind of Christ, as Paul explains in this verse:

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

As I more amply explain in the series called "So You Really Think You Are So Humble?", we must each both think and act as Jesus Christ thought and acted, and be totally yielded to the Will of the Father, just as Jesus was. We must be willing to wholeheartedly accept and obey the Lord's program, no matter how difficult and how challenging it may be for us, even when it contradicts our own personal plans, and what we feel we want to do. In the following verses, Jesus referred to this sacrificial surrendering of our will, mind and body to the Lord, as taking up our cross daily, in order to follow Him:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but

whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Luke 9:23-24, KJV

While we might be tempted to view these verses as having a purely symbolic meaning, the truth of the matter, is that the physical is a manifestation of the spiritual; and if we are not willing to submit our physical bodies to God's Will, as "a living sacrifice" in the words of the Apostle Paul, might this be an indication that there is something wrong with our spiritual attitude as well? In my various articles concerning discipleship, I make clear that God owns all of us. We are His possessions, bought with the precious Blood of His dear Son. As such, He can do whatever He wants with us. The Apostle Paul says the very same thing in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, as we see by these two verses:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

Notice that Paul states quite clearly "ye are not your own", because we are bought with a price. Because of this fact, he says that we are to glorify God in both our body and in our spirit, which are God's. Your body, and your spirit, belong to God, and not to you. Do you see that? God the Father has first rights over you entirely. To reiterate this important point, you are God's possession.

Now, if as Christians, we truly and honestly believe that our entire spiritual and physical being belongs to God, doesn't it stand to reason that in matters concerning pregnancy and childbirth, the only right attitude for a Christian Believer to have -- and particularly a Christian woman to have -- is to place their faith in God, and their future in God's hands, by allowing Him to decide whether or not He wants her to have any children?

If children are truly an heritage of the Lord -- Psalm 127:3 -- as the Psalmist tells us, is not having children one way of glorifying God in our bodies? While some Christians like to boast about how many spiritual children they have had -- by leading others to the Lord -- what if God likewise wants you to give birth to His physical children as well? In such a case, as a woman or a husband, are you just as willing and

yielded to His Divine Will? Furthermore, is it possible that by practicing some form of birth control, you are in effect trying to preempt what might be the Will of God, either due to your own lack of faith, or possibly for even more selfish reasons?

In the world today, one major, contentious issue which has constantly been discussed between the sexes, concerns who has the right over a woman's body. No doubt you are familiar with the well-known mantra "My body, my choice!". This argument is particularly popular with those liberal-minded, worldly women who advocate and promote abortion as a viable and acceptable form of birth control. As far as they are concerned, no man has the right to tell them what to do with their own bodies. In many cases, not even their own husbands, even though that baby wouldn't even exist without the husband's participation. In the United States of America, this debate has raged even hotter ever since the Supreme Court overturned 1973's Roe v. Wade ruling -- which declared abortion a constitutional right on a national level -- on June 24, 2022.

Of course, the misguided women who vociferously support and fight for this vile, ungodly practice do not view abortion as being a cold-blooded, murderous act. Rather, they see it as taking personal responsibility for their lives. Sadly, while many such ungodly, selfish women claim that they alone have the final say when it comes to deciding the fate of the unborn child they carry within -- thus the adoption of the popular term "pro-choice" -- the truth of the matter is that God -- who is the Creator and the Giver of that life -- has the final say, whether they like it, or can admit to it or not.

Furthermore, while they love to shout "My body, my choice!", they refuse to recognize -- or maybe purposely ignore -- the biological fact that an unborn fetus is in reality a unique, separate human being who is growing inside of them. That baby is not a part of a woman's body. She merely nourishes it and provides it with a safe, conducive place to develop. As we all know, that fetus will become an independent being at the time of his/her physical birth. So the truth is that an unborn baby is a body within a body, and no woman has the right to terminate its life.

Sadly, in many cases, the Lord has long since been rubbed out of the picture -- if they ever even believed in Him to begin with -- and some women and couples could not care less what

God thinks of their selfish actions. Hardening their hearts against God is the only way in which some of these people can effectively resist the conviction which the Lord places upon their hearts when they are considering having an abortion. In other words, they have to deny the very existence of the One who created them to begin with, as well as who created their unborn child. In his first Epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul discusses people who have had "their conscience seared with a hot iron", meaning that they have become numb to the conviction of God's Spirit. In fact, God isn't even in their thoughts. Consider the following two verses:

"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"
1 Timothy 4:2, KJV

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."
Psalm 10:4, KJV

To continue, the Christian friend who wrote to me went on to say that since their marriage several years earlier, both he and his wife had felt that children might not be a part of their future. Due to my personal knowledge of the Scriptures regarding this topic, I was taken back a bit upon reading this comment. My initial question was to ask whether or not the Lord had specifically revealed this to them through His Word, or if this was just their personal desire not to have children. I was immediately reminded of the following verse that is found in the Book of Psalms, which I mentioned to you a moment ago. In the Book of Genesis, we also find the phrase "be fruitful, and multiply" five times. Consider this:

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."
Psalm 127:3, KJV

"And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth."
Genesis 1:22, KJV

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:28, KJV

"Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth."

Genesis 8:17, KJV

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

Genesis 9:1, KJV

"And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;"

Genesis 35:11, KJV

How very different is the attitude of the world today where many women and couples go against the original commandment which God gave to Adam and Eve, to His natural Creation, to Noah after the Flood, and to Jacob. Instead of accepting the Lord's blessing of fruitfulness in their lives, many married couples and single women resort to every means possible from birth control pills, to diaphragms, to condoms, to rhythmic birth control, to the murderous act of abortion, in order to reject what may very well be God's Will for their lives. It is truly ironic that while some married couples desire with all of their hearts to have children, others selfishly and coldheartedly reject the blessing of new life in their lives.

Please notice that in the previous verse from the Book of Psalms, we are specifically told that "children are an heritage of the Lord". According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, the word "heritage" is translated from the Hebrew word "nachalah". Pronounced nakh-al-aw', this Hebrew word means possession, property, inheritance, heritage, portion or share.

In one regard, we can look at that verse as meaning that our children belong to the Lord. They are His possession, and we are merely being made temporary earthly stewards over them. The fact that we have even been considered worthy of bearing and raising the children of the King, should be counted as a great blessing, and we should take it very seriously. I was just reminded of what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence."

Matthew 19:13-15, KJV

In looking at other meanings of the word "nachalah", we can also consider that the number of children we have in life is our portion, or share, from the Lord. In that same verse -- Psalm 127:3 -- the word "reward" is derived from the Hebrew word "sakar". Pronounced as saw-kawr', it means hire, wages, pay, fare, fee, or passage-money. In this case, given the context of the verse, the most likely meaning of the word is "hire". Similar to the servants who are mentioned by Jesus in some of His Parables, we could say that when a wife becomes pregnant, in essence, she has been hired by God to raise His children properly with a knowledge of the Lord and His Word. Sadly, as I point out in articles such as "The Plight of the Children: School Gun Violence!", so many many parents today fail miserably at this important God-ordained task.

Disgracefully, as we've already discussed, even though they have been hired by the Lord, many modern, selfish women -- particularly many American women -- do not want the job. As mothers-to-be, they -- along with their spouses -- need to realize that God knows what we can each handle, and that He will bless us accordingly. It is truly tragic when deciding whether or not to have children comes down to a financial decision. As Christians, we need to believe that if God is going to bless us with children, then He is likewise going to make a way for us to provide for them as well. One of my favorite verses regarding this subject is the following one:

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19, KJV

A main part of the problem is that because so many married couples in the world today have rejected God in their lives -- or at least don't give Him a primary place in their lives -- they simply have no one in whom they can truly place their faith and confidence, except in themselves, and in their own abilities and human limitations. They think that they have to do it all on their own. Given the current economic situation in the world, having a baby and raising a child can thus seem

to be a rather daunting challenge. As a result, whether or not to have a child quite often comes down to the basic issue of money, as I mentioned a moment ago. Because such people do not believe in God, or fail to lean on Him and trust in Him, it simply does not occur to them that He is there waiting to help, if they will just call out to Him.

Of course, as I mention in the series "Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent", with a lot of women, terminating a pregnancy is not so much about financial considerations, as it is about selfishness and personal convenience. In other words, because they are still young, such women want to enjoy their lives a while before being burdened by the so-called "inconvenience" of motherhood. If we want to be brutally honest here, what it comes down to is the fact that their happiness is apparently more important to them than the life of the child they carry within. Instead of viewing that baby as a blessing from God, they view it as an interference which interrupts the personal plans they have for their life. So, if they do unintentionally become pregnant, off they run to the local abortionist without giving it second thought. Trust me; you would be shocked to learn how few abortions are really performed to save the life of a woman. Please refer to the aforementioned series for the actual statistics.

Sadly, these kinds of selfish women foolishly think that they can do as they please, and that they will never have to pay the consequences for their acts of selfishness. However, the Word of God makes it very clear that someday when they appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, they will be shocked to learn how terribly wrong they have been. They will indeed be held accountable for having murdered their baby. In thinking about this, I am reminded of something the Apostle Paul wrote in his second Epistle to Timothy:

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"

2 Timothy 3:4, KJV

Wow! Just look at what Paul wrote: "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God". Surely Paul's words are right on target in describing the attitude which is prevalent in the world today. Many people truly are much more interested in pursuing selfish, unbridled sexual pleasures than they are in pleasing the Lord. We can blame the publishing industry as well as the entertainment industry for that. In fact, as you may know, to our own shame, even the American public school system is now

promoting sexual promiscuity and sexual perversions to young impressionable children in elementary schools and above. Sex in one form or another is constantly being thrown in our faces from a very young age.

In light of this shameful truth, should it really come as a surprise to us then that so many people want to enjoy sex, but not have to pay the price of the fruit which may result from their sexual encounters? Thus, as we have seen, they resort to birth control, abortion, and unnatural, unhealthy relationships with persons of the same sex in order to steer clear of the responsibility. While the world has labeled it as "safe sex", might a more appropriate term be "selfish sex"? Furthermore, is it really "safe sex" if it results in AIDS, Monkeypox, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Genital Herpes, and other Sexual Transmitted Diseases?

As I mentioned earlier, I know that it is common for many parents, including Christian parents, to worry about the future; particularly when their number of children begins to multiply. We begin to consider such factors as the high cost of living, limited living space, an inadequate income, the expensive cost of a formal education, etc. There are so many seemingly "legitimate" reasons for us to consider the option of planned parenthood. However, when the temptation of birth control enters our hearts, we need to remember the following wise words of the Apostle Paul which are found in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

If you are a child of God, then this is where personal faith enters the picture. As God-fearing Christian parents, we must place our faith fully and totally in the Lord. We must trust so much in God's love for His children, that we know that He will take care of every situation, if we will only give Him the time to work. As I told you before, we need to believe that if God is going to bless us with children, then He is likewise going to make a way for us to provide for them as well. Quite often, it's when we fail to do this, and blunder ahead in our impatience, and in our own strength and wisdom, that we make mistakes. As I have quoted many times before:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV

The wisdom which is found in these verses can be applied to the issue of planned parenthood as well. The last thing that we want to do is to be swayed by the fearful ideas of carnal, earthly, godless men who erroneously believe that it is they alone who possess the solutions to the world's problems. This is secular humanism to the core. It has been said that fear is the opposite of faith. Sadly, the world today is full of many unfounded fears, some of which have been intentionally created, or at least magnified beyond measure, for the sole purpose of controlling and manipulating the masses. As more and more people have rejected the Word of the Lord, faith has diminished in our modern world, while at the same time, fear and mistrust have grown. I am reminded of certain things that Jesus said in the Gospel of Luke. Consider this:

". . . Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8, KJV

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Luke 21:25-26, KJV

While we can debate regarding the actual time frame of the previous verses, the main thing that I want you to see from Jesus' words is that as faith diminishes, fear increases.

One way in which this fear is manifested, is through the issue of overpopulation. I recall how many years ago, when I was a young man in my early twenties, I possessed a poster in which the artist depicted his views concerning the future of the world. In this grim image, the world's inhabitable land is occupied by an unsustainable population. The Earth's natural resources have been dwindled down to nothing. In the painting, people are seen desperately clinging to pinnacles above the masses, while others are engaged in hand-to-hand combat in the overpopulated lowlands, as the oceans slowly encroach upon them. Scattered throughout the confusing mass

of humanity are seen obviously-pregnant women, which serve as a not-so-subtle hint regarding the cause of the problem.

I am also reminded of several movies I saw decades ago which also dealt with the issue of overpopulation. For example, in the popular 1973 sci-fi classic, "Soylent Green", starring world-renown actors, Charlton Heston and Edward G. Robinson, we are led to believe that the world situation is going to deteriorate to such a degree, that humanity will eventually end up placing themselves on the platter. At that time, due to overpopulation -- at least according to this Hollywood movie -- euthanasia will have become an acceptable practice in order to sustain a viable population on the Earth. It is towards the end of this movie, that we discover that those delicious, little, green tablets referred to as "Soylent Green", are actually made from the reprocessed bodies of those old folks who have patriotically -- and dutifully -- undergone euthanasia. Cannibalism! Nothing goes to waste in this future world!

Ironically, according to the IMDB website, "Soylent Green" is set in the year 2022 when powerful corporations control the world. Sound familiar? Equally ironic is the fact that at our current time in 2022, euthanasia is slowly becoming an acceptable practice as well. As it has been often said, yesterday's science fiction is today's reality.

The 1976 sci-fi film "Logan's Run", starring British actors, Michael York and Jenny Agutter, likewise employed a rather fiendish -- as well as very deceptive -- form of population control. In this case, upon reaching the age of thirty, the controlled inhabitants of an underground, encapsulated city are obligated to undergo a so-called process of rejuvenation. But then our smart protagonist soon discovers that more folks are participating in the process, than are actually coming out of it alive. To his horror, he eventually realizes that rather than being rejuvenated, his friends are really being zapped out of existence by a laser beam. Thus begins their flight to freedom, and to the natural surface world outside of their domed artificial prison. The 2005 movie "The Island" ends in a very similar fashion.

Finally, in 1972's sci-fi film "ZPG: Zero Population Growth", British actor Oliver Reed and his wife become fugitives in a futuristic society, when they decide to have a child without the approval of government authorities, who remain anonymous throughout the movie. This movie employs a lot of fear, such

as a dark smoggy sky which requires the use of a gas mask when one is out in public, helicopters with bright lights and authoritative voices which boom out orders over megaphones to the offenders, and traitorous friends who become jealous when the couple has their "illegal" child, while they are forced to be content with robotic dolls which talk and act like the real thing. As in "Logan's Run", rather than give up their precious child, the couple embarks on a flight to freedom; and the movie ends with them obtaining it far away from the oppressive government.

This then is Satan's dark and fearful picture of the future. It is through media such as the aforementioned three movies, that the devilish controllers of this world slowly mold and manipulate the public psyche, and pressure people -- even God's children -- into accepting what they frame as being personal responsibility, for their actions. For the foolish children of the world who don't know the Lord, or who refuse to bend to His Will, accepting personal responsibility seems to include taking matters of life and death into their own hands, through both birth control and the ungodly practice of abortion. This places Christians in an awkward position. While we wish to be responsible for our actions, including our sexual actions, we do not wish to defy the natural laws which have been ordained by our Creator. Because of this fact, we place ourselves at odds with the children of the world who have chosen to not follow the Divine Guidelines.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART 2

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Faith In God's Love Care And Provision, Our Responsibility Is To Provide For Our Families, We Are Adopted Children And All Members Of God's Royal Household, Scriptures Regarding God's Provision, Do Not Worry About The Future, God's Contract, If The Lord Will, The God-Centric Perspective Of The Israelites, God's Impossible Situations, Pregnant By The Will Of God, God Knew Us Before We Were Born, But A Body Hast Thou Prepared Me, Just A Clump Of Cells And A Product Of Conception, Fetal Personhood, Deceiving And Being Deceived, Mary's Submission To God's Will, God's Plan Since The Very Beginning Has Been One Flesh And Bearing Children, Pharaoh And Hebrew Midwives, Baby Moses' Life Is Spared, Children Are Sacrificed To Molech

Continuing our discussion from part one, as I have already made clear, in my view, the proper attitude of a God-fearing Christian married couple is to believe that if God blesses us with a certain number of children, then we must also have the faith to believe that if we are earnestly seeking to please Him, He will open the right doors of opportunity, and provide us with the necessary means to support and raise our children for His glory. As the Apostle Paul also wrote in his first Epistle to Timothy:

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

So as you can plainly see, it is our Christian responsibility to provide for our families. Not only that, but as many of my Christian readers will already know, as children of the King, we are each a part of God's household. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we become His adopted sons and daughters. This Scriptural truth becomes evident by verses such as these:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to

fear; but YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:15-17, KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26, KJV

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION OF SONS. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:4-6, KJV

"Having predestinated us UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Being then that we are a part of God's extended household, just as we form our own families here on Earth as well, and faithfully provide for them, can there be any doubt that the great Creator of the Universe is likewise more than able and willing to provide our every need, when we are pleasing in His sight? Do you honestly believe that our Heavenly Father is limited by the number of children that we have? If your faith is a little weak in this area, then please consider the following verses where He promises to provide for us:

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"

Isaiah 59:1, KJV

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalms 37:4, KJV

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Matthew 6:33-34, KJV

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened . . . If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:7-8, 11, KJV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22, KJV

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Luke 12:6-7, KJV

"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Luke 12:22-31, KJV

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:32, KJV

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21, KJV

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19, KJV

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

1 John 5:14-15, KJV

Those verses are God's promises to us, and He is a man of His word. As I have testified in some of my other articles, and personally witnessed in my own life, where God guides, He also provides. The Lord is not one to say, "This is the way, walk ye in it" -- Isaiah 30:21 -- and then not provide for His children along that way. It is through God's provision, that we know that we are in His Will. Of course, the Lord may also test our faith a little, to see if we are still willing to believe and obey, even when the situation seems contrary to what we expect.

However, if there is one thing of which I am certain, it is that we are not to worry about the future, no matter how many children we have. To do so, is totally contrary to the Lord's teachings, as we see by the previous set of verses. Whether we have one child, five children or more, God can and will provide for all of them. So again, please ignore the ungodly abortion hype of the world. Don't give in to it. Be fruitful and multiply.

While the Lord may sometimes give us glimpses of the future, even our personal future, for the most part, as far as the Christian walk is concerned, it is usually a matter of blind faith. In other words, we must be willing to sign the dotted line on our blank contract with the Lord, and then allow Him

to fill in the details, according to what He knows is best for us, even when it comes to having children. When we begin to try to control our own future, such as when it comes to matters of birth control, we are placing faith in ourselves, instead of in God. In fact, we may be placing our will above God's Will. Instead of stating that children may not be a part of one's future, it is better to say along with Jesus and James, "Lord, Your Will be done, and not mine"; and that takes a lot of faith. Consider the following verses:

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10, KJV

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt . . . He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

Matthew 26:39, 42, KJV

"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."

Hebrews 10:9, KJV

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

James 4:13-15, KJV

This attitude of "If the Lord will", is found throughout the Scriptures. Unlike many hardhearted people of our modern era, who do everything within their power to try to explain life from a purely rational or scientific perspective -- and by so doing try to keep God out of the picture -- the God-fearing Israelites of old attributed every life event to the Will of God. Whether it was blessings or curses -- such as having children or being barren, or having good weather or bad, or being victorious over their enemies or else being defeated by the same -- they realized and accepted that all things came from the Hand of God, and that He was the source of all things. God was central to their lives, and all things, good

or bad, happened according to His perfect Will. Consider the following examples which deal specifically with the issue of childbearing:

"And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Genesis 18:9-14, KJV

"And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Judges 13:2-5, KJV

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall

be impossible."

Luke 1:30-37, KJV

Notice that in the first two cases, we have women who were barren; and in the third case, we have a young woman who was not even married yet. These were three impossible situations. They knew it, and everyone else knew it as well. Based upon modern scientific reasoning, and our human understanding of conception, we can also agree, that given the situation in which each of these women found themselves, they simply could not have become pregnant by normal or acceptable means. Two of them were too old, and one -- Mary -- had never even had sex before. So for them to become pregnant required an actual miracle. It required the Will of God, and it required the Hand of God as well.

Why were these messengers able to proclaim such messages? It was because, in the words of the Angel Gabriel, "For with God nothing shall be impossible". These messengers knew that the process of becoming pregnant was not merely the result of the physical act of engaging in sex. It likewise required the key factor of being God's Will. While some nonbelievers may not agree with me, I believe that in the lives of us Christians, unless God's Will is present, pregnancy simply won't happen. But if it is His Will, then a conception will occur. It is for this reason that the Psalmist was inspired to write the following in Psalm 139:

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

Psalm 139:13-16, KJV

It may surprise you to know that this is not the only place in the Scriptures where we learn that God knew us before we were physically born into this world. There are a few other verses which suggest the very same thought. Consider the following:

"BEFORE I FORMED THEE IN THE BELLY I KNEW THEE; and BEFORE THOU CAMEST FORTH OUT OF THE WOMB I sanctified thee, and I

ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

Jeremiah 1:5, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love . . . HAVING PREDESTINATED US unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, BEING PREDESTINATED according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

So as you can see, from God's perspective, we could say that we, His children, are prefabricated. Not only did He already know us before we came into this world, but He also designed our bodies beforehand as well. God knew exactly what we were supposed to look like, even before we were actually formed in our mother's womb! As I was typing this paragraph, I was just reminded of the fact that in the Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer -- who I believe was Paul -- informs us that God the Father even prepared a body for Jesus to come into the world. Consider the following verse as proof of this:

"Wherefore when he [meaning Jesus] cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:"

Hebrews 10:5, KJV

Based upon the aforementioned Scriptural facts, I conclude that cold-hearted people who argue about when life actually begins -- as a means to justify their murder of the unborn innocent -- are blatant liars and deceivers. Their thought seems to be that by dehumanizing an embryo or fetus -- or making it seem less human and denying it "fetal personhood" -- by coldly referring to it as "just a clump of cells", or as a "product of conception", they can help a woman to feel less guilty about having an abortion and murdering her unborn child. In other words, it appears to be a subtle tactic to help expectant mothers to emotionally detach themselves from their unborn child, so that they are willing to kill it with ease. I am reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote

in his second Epistle to Timothy. Consider the following:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

That is exactly what abortionists, pro-choice advocates and misguided medical professionals are doing when they deny that an embryo or a fetus is a human being. They are denying God's truth and God's Word, and purposely deceiving young pregnant girls and women. They are deceived themselves, and they are deceiving others as well.

Returning for a moment to the attitude of "If the Lord will", when Mary was informed of her soon-coming pregnancy, what was her reaction? Did she say to the Angel Gabriel "What do you mean?! You can't do that to me God! What will people think?! What will Joseph think?! We are not even officially married yet! They will call me a whore and a slut!" Or did Mary get uptight and think about the soon-coming loss of her personal freedom and say "I'm really sorry, Lord, but I am not ready for this. I am young. I haven't enjoyed life yet. Becoming pregnant would be too much of an inconvenience for me at this current time. Maybe later. Okay Lord? You understand, don't you?" Or did Mary argue "Listen Lord. I am a working woman. I am very career-oriented. I have worked very hard to make it this far in my life, so I just really can't be bothered with becoming pregnant right now."

No! Absolutely not! That dear young woman didn't say anything of the sort! Mary was so yielded to the Lord that she simply responded in the following way to the Angel Gabriel:

". . . Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Luke 1:38, KJV

Simply put, Mary fully accepted the message from her Angelic Visitor as being the Will of God. She did not fight against it like a lot of these so-called "liberated women" do today. She humbly accepted her God-ordained, and God-given role, as a mother-to-be. Now, I realize that some worldly people who may possibly be reading this series may consider these views to be old-fashioned. However, they are Scripture-based. They are the Word of God. So, if there is any error in thinking, it is clearly on the part of those people who would dare to call God a liar, and His inspired Word a lie.

Based upon the Scriptures I have shared thus far, it's very difficult for me to accept that any married Christian would suggest that children might not be a part of their future; unless, of course, they have received an outright revelation from the Lord, or if perhaps there is something extremely wrong physically with either the woman or the man. But even then, as we have already seen, there are no insurmountable obstacles as far as the Lord is concerned. He is more than capable of overcoming all of them, if He so desires. Such a thought -- as was expressed by the person who wrote to me -- simply does not sit well with me; and it honestly makes me wonder if there might not be something amiss in the hearts of those people who say such things. Perhaps what they are really saying is, "I hope that children are not a part of my future, because I don't want any".

If that is the case, and a Christian married couple really does not want to have any children, then I feel obligated to ask, why then did such a couple even choose to get married in the first place? In quoting from the Book of Genesis, Jesus makes it very plain that marriage, and becoming one flesh, has been God's plan from the beginning of the world, as becomes evident by the following set of verses:

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
Mark 10:6-9, KJV

Obviously, being one flesh also includes becoming one flesh through sexual union; and such a union normally results in children sooner or later. That is, if a couple is placing their faith in the Lord, and not in any form of artificial birth control. Personally, I am not aware of any places in the Bible where God's people are instructed to purposely seek out methods to hold back the Lord's blessings through childbirth. The only examples I can think of where such wicked things occurred in the Scriptures, were all selfish, murderous acts. For example, we have the story of Pharaoh instructing the Hebrew midwives to kill the Hebrew newborns, when the Egyptian king felt threatened by the growing Hebrew population in Goshen. Consider the following verses:

"But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied

and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty."

Exodus 1:12-20, KJV

When this plan failed to work because the Hebrew midwives feared the Lord more than they feared Pharaoh, that wicked Egyptian king then ordered that all Hebrew male newborns be cast into the Nile River, as we see by the following verses. As you may already know, it was because of the faith and obedience of two Hebrew slaves -- Amram and Jochebed -- that Moses' life was spared, and he was eventually found in the bulrushes by the daughter of Pharaoh, who had compassion upon him:

"And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive."

Exodus 1:21-22, KJV

"And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the rivers brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens

walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."

Exodus 2:1-10, KJV

Many hundreds of years later, after the Lord had blessed the Hebrew children, by freeing them from Egyptian bondage, and making them a powerful nation of over one million strong, sadly, these very same people fell into such an utter state of apostasy, that they were actually sacrificing their sons and their daughters on the fiery altars of the false heathen god, Molech, in the Valley of Hinnom, which was located to the south of Jerusalem outside the city wall. I discuss this topic in other articles such as in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience". This cold-blooded sacrifice of young children was one of the primary reasons why the Lord sent in King Nebuchadnezzar and his army to chastise the house of Judah. Consider this group of verses:

"And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle. Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents; They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter. And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and

their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof. And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them."

Jeremiah 19:3-9, KJV

"Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."

1 Kings 11:7, KJV

"And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech."

2 Kings 23:10, KJV

"And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

Jeremiah 32:35, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART 3

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Herod Orders Destruction Of The Children Of Bethlehem, Satan: The Destroyer Of God's Children, Child Sacrifice: Ancient And Modern, Jealous Michal Cursed With Barrenness, God Chastises King David, God Kills And Makes Alive, When Our Children Get On Our Nerves, Unnatural Attitude Regarding Having Children, Children Are A Blessing And Not A Curse, When Children Become A Burden, Dangerous Ungodly Birth Control Pill, God's Natural Monthly Cycle For Women, The Danger Of Tampering With God's Natural Order, COVID-19 Vaccines Controversy, Negative Fruits Of The Forbidden Knowledge, Unless God Intervenes, Vasectomy, Eunuchs And Castration In The Scriptures, Cryptorchidism And Anorchia, Philip And The Ethiopian Eunuch, Are Vasectomies Acceptable To The Lord?, Compare Verse With Verse, God Does Not Contradict Himself Or His Word, Let The Bible Interpret Itself, Covenant Marriage, Marriage Vows Adultery And Divorce

Continuing our discussion from part two, and turning to the New Testament, many of us are familiar with the fact that, in accordance with Old Testament prophecy, Satan inspired evil, selfish King Herod to order the destruction of all the young children of Bethlehem and the surrounding area. This Herod did after having felt threatened upon receiving the news from the three magi, that a new king had been born in Israel. We find the story in the following set of verses:

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Matthew 2:16-18, KJV

Of course, we all know that God was one step ahead of Satan. As a result, He warned Joseph in a dream to take Mary and young Jesus, and to escape to Egypt until the death of King Herod. This was done in order that God's wonderful Plan of Salvation might be fulfilled, exactly as God had ordained since before the world began, as we see by the following group of verses:

"And when they [the three wise men] were departed, behold,

the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Matthew 2:13-15, KJV

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN,"

2 Timothy 1:9, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN;"

Titus 1:2, KJV

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

Revelation 13:8, KJV

Through the previous examples, it is easy to see that Satan is the destroyer of the Lord's children. While I have shared some rather extreme examples, it should be clear to you, the reader, that under normal circumstances, the Devil is the only one who seeks to slay -- or else inspires others to slay -- the Lord's children; even God's unborn children. This, the Devil has been doing for thousands of years, whether it is by way of ancient child sacrifices, or through different modern forms of the same, such as through birth control which seeks to prevent the conception from ever occurring, or through the disgusting practice of abortion, after the Lord's child has already been formed in the womb. The depth of this wickedness is beyond words.

If either of these two methods -- birth control and abortion -- don't work, then that Prince of Darkness will trick women into becoming drug addicts, or perhaps alcoholics, so that their unborn children may face the potential danger of either being malformed, or addicted to heroin from birth. Or perhaps they will suffer from some mental deficiency beginning at a very young age. If all else fails, and that child does grow up knowing the ways of the Lord, he or she still is not safe.

He or she may eventually experience some form of persecution by the ungodly children of the world. So you see, Satan never gives up. He wants God's children dead, and he is out to win!

In a few rare cases, we do find examples in the Bible where God either slew a particular child, or else He prevented children from being born altogether, as a direct form of His chastisement against a certain individual. One clear example which immediately comes to mind can be found in the Second Book of Samuel, where David's first wife, Michal -- who was the daughter of rebellious King Saul -- became jealous when David danced nearly naked before the Lord, after the Ark of the Covenant had been returned to Israel. As a result of her jealousy, the Lord struck Michal barren, as we see in the following group of verses:

"And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart . . . Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD . . . Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

2 Samuel 6:16, 20-21, 23, KJV

In another clear example, which also involved King David, as a form of severe chastisement, God smote the king's first son, who was born as a result of David's blatant act of lust and adultery with beautiful Bathsheba, who was the wife of David's faithful general, Uriah the Hittite. In fact, as you may know, David also committed first degree murder, when he tried to conceal his sin by having Uriah purposely placed in the front line of battle where David knew that he would be killed. Consider the following group of verses:

"And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that

the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him."

2 Samuel 12:18-24, KJV

While these two examples may shock a few people, as the Lord Himself tells us through the Prophet Moses, He makes alive, and He also kills. He alone is God, and He can do according to His own Will, and none can stand against Him. Consider the following verse:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."

Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

As this person continued in his letter to me, he informed me that both he and his wife felt very awkward around children. Because of this, they were unsure of how to act when children were present. He made it clear that it wasn't that they don't like children, it was that they just didn't possess a desire to have any of their own. He also mentioned that they seemed to have more of an affinity with senior citizens.

To a certain degree, I can understand how this couple felt. For those of us who do have children, particularly multiple children, if we are honest with ourselves, we will humbly admit that there are indeed times when our children do get on our nerves. Maybe we are simply tired from a long day at work. Or perhaps our minds are preoccupied with a certain problem which is occurring in our lives. Or perhaps we are busy working on a certain project which demands our utmost

concentration. During such times, having our noisy children around is the last thing that we need. Right?

There is no need to feel guilty about it. After all, these are all normal situations which happen to all parents. At such times, we may wish that our children were already in bed sleeping, or maybe still at school. Even though we may feel this way at times, this does not diminish our love for them by any means. Raising children is a hard job, and the truth is that sometimes we do need short breaks from them, no matter how much we love them.

However, what this childless couple was expressing to me in their email message went beyond that. In fact, as I already explained, it alarmed me; particularly because at that time, they had only been married for about two years. I was also given the impression that they were a rather young couple. To be honest, their desires simply did not seem natural to me. A young Christian couple which expresses no desire to have a family, just does not seem to conform to the Word or Will of God, in my view. In fact, such an attitude defeats one of the primary reasons for which most people do get married, and it is also contrary to the Lord's command to be fruitful and multiply, as we discussed in part one. Marriage is about procreation, a deep spiritual and physical bond, lifelong companionship, and much more.

As we also discussed in part one, children are the heritage of the Lord. They are His reward which He gives to married couples. Children are also the ultimate fruit of true love, which itself finds its deepest expression in a fulfilling sexual relationship. Children are meant to be a blessing, and not a curse or a burden. They only become a burden when we as parents fail to raise them properly with a fear of the Lord, and a knowledge of His Word. As we read in the Book of Proverbs:

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."

Proverbs 10:1, KJV

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."

Proverbs 13:1, KJV

"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother."

Proverbs 15:20, KJV

"A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him."

Proverbs 17:25, KJV

If this couple's unhealthy attitude towards childbearing was the result of some inward insecurity, then instead of trying to ignore the problem, by simply saying that they would have no children, which in my opinion is a very serious decision to make so early in a marriage relationship, I felt that they needed to confront the problem head-on, discover its source, and deal with it, no matter how uncomfortable it might make them feel.

This man then informed me that for a time, his wife had been using birth control pills. However, due to the fact that it made her sick in some way, she apparently stopped using them. That in itself should be a clear sign to any Christian who is sensitive to God's Spirit, that He does not approve of such things. This was not the first time that I had heard of women becoming sick from taking the pill. It seems to be a fairly common occurrence.

As we all know, God Himself has ordained a monthly cycle for women, so that their bodies will have time to produce eggs and be fertile, and then have a time -- usually three days to a week -- in order to flush their bodies of the same, and to cleanse the uterus, when the eggs are not fertilized. In His Wisdom, the Lord has timed this process precisely from month to month. As in all things that the Lord does, it is perfect clockwork, just like the rest of the created Universe.

I know for a fact from talking to women who have used birth control pills, that this natural, Divinely-Designed cycle is both altered and disrupted when those artificial chemicals are introduced into a woman's body. In my opinion, it is not normal; it is not natural; and it is not godly. Furthermore, it is dangerous to tamper with the natural order of things, as they were designed and ordained by the Lord. Doing so can lead to unpredictable, unanticipated and even deadly results.

As I mention in some of my COVID-19 articles, one very clear example of this at this present time concerns the thousands -- perhaps millions? -- of people who have been harmed, or even died, after getting the COVID-19 vaccines and follow-up booster shots. And yet as we approach three years into the

pandemic, the powers that be still continue to promote the controversial vaccines, and pressure people to be vaccinated, including very young children. Please refer to the VAERS website and database tool at the following URL to learn more about this subject. VAERS is an acronym for "Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System":

<https://vaers.hhs.gov/data.html>

Tragically, as you probably already know, as our knowledge and understanding of scientific principles is increasingly expanded, and our methods improved, some men of science are foolishly tampering more and more with the building blocks of God's Creation every day. This includes unraveling the mysteries of DNA and the human genome sequence. As I point out in the article "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", it is my view that there are some things which were simply not meant for mere humans to understand. While modern scientists may not realize it, and while they may think that they are doing good, I suspect that it is only through satanic inspiration that man has been educated in some of these things.

To tamper with the forbidden knowledge, as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden, is utter foolishness. Yet man today has gone way beyond anything which Adam and Eve could ever possibly have done. We have but to look at such things as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Chernobyl, Three-Mile Island, the effects of nuclear, chemical and biological warfare, ozone depletion, deforestation, oil spills, the extinction of many species, acid rain, drug addiction, inner-city violence and climate change, in order to clearly see some of the negative fruits of man's scientific achievements.

If we honestly do this, if we look at some of the results of such misguided science, then we are forced to ask ourselves a very important question: Does the good we have accomplished through science truly outweigh the bad, or are we just living in a state of self-imposed delusion? Human nature being what it is, I am concerned that we may have already signed our own death warrant. Except for God's mercy and some form of direct intervention, we could very well completely destroy ourselves at some point in the not-too-distant future, through our own madness and selfishness. In a sense, using birth control, and resorting to abortion, is likewise a part of this very same destructive process, because it is slow medical genocide.

Being as this man's wife became very sick after taking birth control pills, he informed me that they decided to take a more permanent approach to fulfilling their desire to not have any children. While he had not yet done it at the time that I wrote the original version of this series in 1999 -- because he was not yet certain that it was God's Will -- this man informed me that he was seriously considering undergoing a vasectomy. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the term, it is a simple medical procedure whereby a small part of the tubes leading from a man's testes -- or testicles -- referred to as the vas deferens, is surgically removed. This prohibits the flow of sperm-containing semen from the testes, to the ejaculatory duct in the penis, thus preventing a wife from becoming pregnant.

In looking at the Scriptures, we might consider vasectomy to be a less intrusive form of castration. In the latter case, a man's testicles were completely removed for various reasons. In some cases, it was because he worked as a harem attendant, or in some other official capacity, in the courts of Eastern or Middle Eastern royalty. The Bible refers to such castrated men as eunuchs. For example, let us consider the words of the Prophet Isaiah to Judean King Hezekiah, regarding the future of the king's lineage:

"And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

2 Kings 20:16-18, KJV

In other cases, men were castrated and became eunuchs for religious reasons. Jesus Himself spoke of both court eunuchs and religious eunuchs when He stated the following in the Gospel of Matthew. In fact, He even seems to be stating that some men are naturally born without testicles, which proves that, while rare, this medical condition is nothing new:

"For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

Matthew 19:12, KJV

According to the NIH's US National Library of Medicine, this rare affliction of being born without testicles is referred to as Anorchia or Congenital Anorchia. Male infants will be born with both a penis and a scrotum, but they will have no testicles in their scrotum. This rare condition should not be confused with the much more common Cryptorchidism, which occurs when one or both testicles are slow to descend into the scrotum. Once the baby is born, the testicles usually drop into the scrotum during the first three to six months of his life. So Cryptorchidism is only temporary, and is not a permanent condition like Anorchia.

Other than the previous verse that is found in the Gospel of Matthew, the only other place where I specifically found a eunuch being mentioned in the New Testament, is in the Book of Acts, where the Apostle Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch who served under Queen Candace of Ethiopia. From some of the material I have read, it is believed by some scholars that it was this very man who was primarily responsible for the eventual Christianization of Ethiopia. Following are some of the key verses from that story:

"And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship . . . And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? . . . And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? . . . And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

Acts 8:27, 34, 36, 38-39, KJV

Due to the obvious similarities between the ancient practice of performing castrations, and the modern medical procedure known as a vasectomy, as well as Jesus' own words concerning eunuchs, some Christians might be tempted to assume that a vasectomy is an acceptable procedure in God's sight under any and all conditions. However, it is my personal belief at this time that this would be an erroneous conclusion. As I have stated many times before in my writings, we must all be

Spirit-led in our interpretation and understanding of the Scriptures. It is imperative that we prayerfully and very carefully compare verse with verse, before arriving at any conclusions. By so doing, we hopefully safeguard ourselves against falling into doctrinal error, and falling under delusion.

In determining the validity of a vasectomy, we need to look at several different factors. Primary among these are who is doing it, when are they doing it, and under what conditions are they doing it. Based upon the Scriptures we have already looked at, as well as others which I will share in a moment, it is my personal belief that the Lord does not condone a married man, who is also a servant of the Lord, undergoing a vasectomy. Allow me to share with you my reasons for arriving at this particular conclusion.

As many Christians know, God is not the author of confusion. He is not in the habit of contradicting Himself. I honestly do not believe that He is going to confuse us by saying one thing in one place in the Scriptures, and then turn around and say something entirely different in another place in His Word. It has been my personal experience, that when there is any confusion in my mind regarding a certain issue, it isn't because the Bible contradicts itself -- as a lot of modern antichrists would have us to believe -- but rather it is due to a limitation in my personal understanding of the matter. That is why it is so very important that we take the time to compare verse with verse, until our eyes are opened, and we find unity in the Scriptures. Let the Bible interpret itself.

Having said the above, I do not believe that God is going to inspire His writers to say "be fruitful and multiply" to the first couple, "children are an heritage of the Lord", that "the fruit of the womb is His reward", and that "they twain shall be one flesh", and then turn around and say that it is okay for a married man to suddenly say to his wife, "Well, sorry honey, but I have just decided to dedicate myself to the Lord. I know that you were thinking about having a few children, but that is now out of the question. I will no longer have the time for them, because I will be too busy working for the Lord. I have decided to become a eunuch."

Personally, I think that this kind of an attitude is really rather selfish. It is obviously unfair to the wife who was expecting a life of motherhood filled with children; and it is totally unscriptural as well. When a man and a woman make

a vow to each other to become one flesh through marriage, I believe that the Lord expects them to do their very best to keep that vow for life. In our modern day, this commitment to remain married for life is referred to by some Christians as a "covenant marriage". It's a legal form of marriage that is currently recognized in three states: Arizona, Arkansas, and Louisiana. A covenant marriage is more restrictive than a traditional marriage, and has certain requirements which a traditional marriage does not have.

Sadly, according to my online research, very few people are wed under a covenant marriage, even in the three US states where such marriages are legally recognized. It seems that most people wed through a normal marriage ceremony, because it is more difficult to obtain a divorce when a person weds under a covenant marriage. You will find more information regarding covenant marriages at the following URL:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_marriage

While covenant marriage may seem old-fashioned to some of my readers, as we have already discussed, this type of marriage is in fact Scripturally sound doctrine. As we learned in part two, in quoting from the Book of Genesis, Jesus stated in the Gospel of Mark, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder".

No doubt some of you married folks, or some of you formerly married folks, or perhaps some of you who have been married on more than one occasion, are probably cringing at my words. But let us be honest with ourselves. Many of us are guilty of these things, myself included. It just seems that some of us -- even those of us who profess to be Christians -- no longer possess the unselfish love and patience that is required in order to sustain a longterm marriage relationship. Some of us even go from marriage to marriage. Now if you personally find yourself in that kind of situation where you remarry while a former spouse is still alive, you should know that according to the Biblical definition of the word, you are an adulterer. As the Lord also said regarding adultery and divorce:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That

whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

Matthew 5:27-28, 31-32, KJV

". . . Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

Matthew 19:8-9, KJV

Considering our mistakes and our sinful condition, the only thing that any of us can do is to cling to the Mercy of God, which is granted to us through the precious Blood of Jesus Christ. If it weren't for that, we would all rightfully be recipients of God's judgment, wrath and chastisement. And because we are all sinners, none of us are in a position to exalt ourselves above others. Regarding marriage vows and other types of promises, in the Old Testament, we find verses such as the following:

"If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her. And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul; And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her. But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her. And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an

oath; And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void. But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them. But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity. These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house."

Numbers 30:2-16, KJV

"When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth."

Deuteronomy 23:21-23, KJV

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART 4

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Eunuchs For The Kingdom Of God, Timing Is Important, Physical Castration Or Abstention From Sex?, Serving The Lord Without Marital Distractions, My Personal Choice To Abstain, Brevity Of Life, Vow Of A Nazarite, Sexual Continence/Celibacy Is Not For Everyone, Temperance, Run The Race, Apostle Paul's Choice To Remain A Celibate, Paul Was Not A Woman-Hater, Position Of The Husband, Forbidding To Marry, Roman Catholicism And The Sins Of Rome, Mutual Sexual Abstention, Sexual Promiscuity, Godly Contentment, Marital Obligations, Spiritual Priorities

Continuing our discuss from part three, the point I wish to make by sharing all of the previous Scriptures, is that when the Lord spoke of men becoming eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of God, I tend to believe that He may primarily have been referring to men who chose to forsake sexual pleasures with women, and thus marriage, BEFORE they actually became joined to a wife, and NOT afterwards. There is obviously a big difference in timing here, and this understanding seems to be more in line with the rest of the Scriptures, and does not contradict them. Now whether Jesus was actually referring to a man physically becoming a eunuch through the process of castration, or whether the Lord was merely implying spiritual castration -- or celibacy -- through abstention from a sexual relationship with a woman, I honestly cannot say.

Thayer's Greek English Lexicon states that the Koine Greek word used here -- "eunouchos" -- can apply to both. As both Jesus and the Apostle Paul tell us, the primary reason why certain men choose to become eunuchs -- or celibates -- is so that they won't become distracted by their sexual desire towards women, which might ultimately result in marriage, and lead to the responsibility of raising children, etc. In this way -- that is, by remaining single -- they are better able to dedicate themselves to the Lord's service with a lot fewer worldly distractions. In Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians, he makes this point quite clear when he writes the following. Please notice Paul's reference to "trouble in the flesh" and "without distraction":

"But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you . . . But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please

the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."

1 Corinthians 7:28, 32-35, KJV

In short, it can be difficult to seek first the Kingdom of God -- as the Lord commanded us to do in the Sermon on the Mount -- when we have family responsibilities which take up our time and our attention, and which drain us of much of our strength. This, of course, includes sexually satisfying our spouse, as well as our own flesh. In this regard, I suppose that I can be considered a spiritual eunuch, being as since about three decades ago, I too determined that I could no longer afford to have a sexual relationship in my life. In fact, except for one very brief relationship -- which ultimately proved to be a serious mistake on my part -- I have refrained from having any personal relationship with a woman since 1992. I have remained a total celibate.

In my mind, time is too short, and I still have a lot which I would like to accomplish for the Lord before I am taken out of this life. I am no longer a spring chicken, and I am probably living the final quarter of my life. As such, every day counts, and so I strive to keep His Word, and His Work, as the primary focus in my life. Regarding the brevity of our human existence, I am reminded of the following verses:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:10, KJV

"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away."

Psalms 144:4, KJV

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:7-8, KJV

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Luke 12:20, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready."

John 7:6, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1 Peter 1:23-25, KJV

In a sense, as I told a dear friend some time ago, you might say that I have also taken the vow of a Nazarite since this online ministry began. The Apostle Paul may have had the vow of a Nazarite in mind when he wrote the previous lines, the reason being that this vow can apply to both men and women who dedicate themselves solely to the Lord's service. For a better understanding regarding what the vow of a Nazarite is, please consider reading Numbers chapter six in the Old Testament.

While some of you may be a bit surprised to discover this particular aspect regarding my personal life, the decision to keep myself from women for the remainder of my life is nevertheless a disciplinary choice which I have freely made in order to further the Kingdom of God. Of course, celibacy is definitely not for all men, and not all men can exercise such self-control. The Apostles Peter and Paul both spoke of

this self-control of one's emotions and sexual drive -- or libido -- in the following verses. Here it is referred to as "temperance":

"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

1 Corinthians 9:25, KJV

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;"

Titus 1:7-8, KJV

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"

2 Peter 1:5-6, KJV

In the previous group of verses, the words "temperate" and "temperance" are derived from three related Koine Greek words. The first of these is the word "egkrateuomai". Pronounced eng-krat-yoo'-om-ahee, Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines this word as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

1) to be self-controlled, continent

1a) to exhibit self-government, conduct, one's self temperately

1b) in a figure drawn from athletes, who in preparing themselves for the games abstained from unwholesome food, wine, and sexual indulgence

----- End Quote -----

The second word used in the Koine Greek manuscripts, is the word "egkrates". Pronounced eng-krat-ace', its meaning is very similar to the previous word. Notice again the mention of sexual continence:

----- Begin Quote -----

1) strong, robust

2) having power over, possessed of (a thing)

- 3) mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining
3a) controlling one's self, temperate, continent

----- End Quote -----

The final word used in the original Koine Greek texts, is the word "egkrateia". Pronounced eng-krat'-i-ah, we again see that this word refers to the control of one's emotions, particularly one's sensual -- or sexual -- passions and appetite:

----- Begin Quote -----

1) self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites)

----- End Quote -----

It is interesting to note Paul's reference to sports in the previous verse taken from his letter to the Corinthians. In particular, with Paul's use of the phrase "every man that striveth for the mastery", he is referring to how athletes must abstain from sex and unhealthy foods in order to build up their physical strength, and thus win the race, which Paul refers to as "a corruptible crown". In the two verses which follow 1 Corinthians 9:25, Paul then informs us how he too is running a spiritual race; and as such, he must also exercise bodily and emotional control, in order that he might win the race, and obtain the incorruptible Crown of Life, and not be ashamed. Consider these verses:

"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
1 Corinthians 9:26-27, KJV

The Apostle Paul apparently made the very same decision to become a eunuch, if not physically, at least in a spiritual sense. That is to say, he chose celibacy. In addition to the aforementioned verses, in his in-depth dissertation regarding marriage and sexual relationships -- which is found only two chapters before the previous verses -- Paul also penned the following lines:

"For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and

another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn."

1 Corinthians 7:7-9, KJV

It is obvious that these three chapters -- 1 Corinthians 7-9 -- are one continual thought in which Paul expounds upon the correct sexual behavior which should exist in the Christian family, and within the Christian Church as well. In fact, it is because of the serious sexual problem which occurred at Corinth -- which Paul discusses in chapter five -- that he was motivated to write this Epistle to begin with.

From reading the previous verses, it becomes rather apparent that the Apostle Paul is saying that he wasn't a married man. Now whether he was a widower or a single person since birth, I honestly cannot say. However, from the time that Paul began to serve the Lord, it is evident that he was a self-imposed eunuch, or celibate. Surely this made his work for the Lord easier as he travelled throughout Asia and southern Europe.

Let me mention here that there are some misguided folks today who have interpreted Paul's marital status -- and a few other things which he wrote in his Epistles -- as meaning that he was a woman-hater. This is the furthest thing from the truth; and personally, I find such an accusation quite ludicrous. In this chapter, as well as in all of his other writings, Paul speaks with equal respect towards both men and women. However, at the same time, he does make it clear that ultimately, God has placed the man over the woman with regards to spiritual matters and decision-making. The husband is the head of the family, just as Christ is the head of the Church. Consider the following group of verses which make this point clear:

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God . . . For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9, KJV

Sadly, some religious organizations today, such as certain Catholic institutions, have gone to the extreme with taking the vow of a eunuch. That is to say, a vow of chastity. They have placed their clerics under the heavy weight of the law, just like the Jewish Scribes and Pharisees of old, and it has

resulted in some very serious problems within the Catholic Church. This includes well-known and well-documented cases of homosexuality, lesbianism, and pedophilia. The Apostle Paul apparently foresaw these times, because in his first Epistle to Timothy, he wrote the following lines. Notice his explicit mention of "forbidding to marry":

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

1 Timothy 4:1-3, KJV

Allow me to point out to you that Paul is writing to the Christian brethren in Rome. Thus, when he talks about some departing from the faith, he is referring to those people who depart from the Christian faith, yet who still claim to be a part of the same. With that in mind, it is obvious that he is associating "forbidding to marry" with "departing from the faith", "seducing spirits" and "doctrines of devils". In short, Paul is saying that the doctrines of "forbidding to marry", and "abstaining from meats", is not of God. They are false doctrines inspired by Satan himself.

Surely, these verses expose some of the wayward ideas which are espoused by Roman Catholic theology, and a false church which erroneously claims to be the "mother church", and the "one true religion", as I am often told by Roman Catholics. Please refer to some of the articles which are listed at the end of this series for additional information concerning the lies and deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church.

I believe that part of the problem is that some of these men and women who decide to become priests, monks, nuns and the like, do so at an early age before they have really thought out their decision thoroughly through prayer and a study of God's Word. Perhaps some of them even feel forced to make such a decision due to the pressure and expectations placed upon them by their families, or by other people within the Catholic world, such as their spiritual elders. Instead of counting the cost, as Jesus advises us to do in Luke chapter fourteen, they make a hasty decision to accept a vow which they later realize they are no longer able to keep.

Sadly, by then, for some of them it is too late. They are already trapped within the Roman Catholic system. So rather than break their vow of chastity so that they can fulfill the sexual desires of their bodies through a wholesome and legitimate relationship with a person of the opposite sex, they choose instead to not risk disappointing their family and peers, and embarrassing themselves as well. But because their bodies still have those same sexual desires which need to be met, they begin to secretly engage in unhealthy sexual practices, as has been amply exposed by the mainstream media in recent years.

As you may know, the Apostle Paul said that it is better to marry than to burn -- 1 Corinthians 7:9 -- which I understand to be a metaphor for burning with unfulfilled sexual desire. Yet ironically, just as Paul exposed the sexual sins of Rome in the first chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, today, the Roman Catholic Church -- which is based in the Vatican in the city of Rome -- is plagued by the very same sins. Consider the following two verses which clearly describe the sins of Rome, the Roman Catholic Church, and our modern, liberal world:

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

Romans 1:26-27, KJV

Allow me to reiterate the fact that making the important decision to become a eunuch for the sake of the Kingdom of God, BEFORE one enters a marriage relationship, seems to be what is being implied by our Lord's Words, as well as by the Apostle Paul. Once a certain person has entered a marriage relationship, and as long as they remain in that state, it does not seem Scripturally-sound to me to suddenly declare oneself a eunuch, and forego all sexual pleasure with his or her spouse. Again, the Apostle Paul was very clear regarding this matter when he wrote the following wise counsel:

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the

husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, KJV

What exactly is the Apostle Paul referring to when he writes "render . . . due benevolence", and "defraud ye not"? Quite simply, it is my understanding that he is referring to being kind to each other by meeting each other's sexual needs, and not denying each other what is one's sexual right through the bond of marriage. That is the gist of these five verses. Paul is saying that rather than burn with sexual lust, and become involved in fornication, it is better to marry. Once two people are married, they should do their best to meet each other's sexual expectations unselfishly.

Paul goes on to say that the only time when a man and a wife should withhold themselves from each other, is when it is by mutual consent. Even then, it should only be for a very good reason, and for a set time period; such as to give oneself to prayer and fasting. I will expand on this thought a bit, and suggest that such sexual abstention may also include when a woman is undergoing her menstruation; or perhaps when both parties are extremely busy for the Lord; or perhaps when one party is very sick; or maybe when your spouse is extremely tired. To refrain from intercourse at such times is an act of unselfish love, in my view.

However, when your partner is constantly saying "Oh, honey, not tonight. I'm too tired", watch out! Paul clearly writes that there must be a time when a married couple re-engages in sexual union at a mutually-agreed-upon time. Otherwise, you are asking for trouble! A married person can only go so long without sex. They become used to having it; and if you refuse to meet their needs because of your own selfishness, then as the Apostle Paul writes above, Satan will come along and tempt them to look for someone else who may be more than happy to meet their sexual needs. More specifically, Paul says "that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

Sadly, I have heard of this happening in many relationships, including in Christian relationships. So, if you do not want to lose your husband or wife to another man, or to another woman, you better be wise and do as the Lord commands you to

do, by keeping your spouse sexually satisfied! If you happen to find yourself in that kind of a situation, you will have no one to blame but yourself! What your spouse is doing is obviously wrong, but it could have been avoided if you had been more cooperative in the bedroom!

This leads us to our next point. In his letter to me, my friend stated that in trying to justify his decision to have a vasectomy, the only thing in the Scriptures which he could think of which might validate his choice, was where we are told in his words "that if a man can go without a wife, then it is good to do so". Being as he was unable to provide me with a Scriptural reference, I can only assume that he may be referring to some of the verses I shared with you earlier. If that is the case, then it is obvious to me that he has misunderstood what the Apostle means. In this same chapter, Paul also writes the following:

"Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife."
1 Corinthians 7:27, KJV

In other words, what the Apostle Paul is saying is that in whatever state you happen to find yourself, whether you are married, or divorced -- that is to say, "loosed from a wife" -- remain in that state, and serve the Lord to the best of your ability. Although he wasn't specifically referring to his marital status, in his Epistle to the Philippians, Paul also offers a similar statement which demonstrates that we must accept all things as coming from the Lord, and to be happy in whatever state we find ourselves. In that letter he wrote as follows:

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
Philippians 4:11, KJV

As we have now seen, once a person is married, they have an obligation before the Lord to meet their partner's sexual needs. When Paul talks about going without a wife -- as my friend put it -- he's NOT talking about getting married, and then not fulfilling one's sexual obligations. Furthermore, there is no indication that Paul is talking about getting castrated -- or having a vasectomy performed upon oneself -- after they are already married.

In other words, Paul is talking about NOT getting married to

begin with. He is talking about becoming a eunuch for the Kingdom of God -- as he apparently was -- and never marrying to begin with. He is NOT talking about getting married, and then resorting to divorce, sexual abstention, or an operation to make one sterile, in order to back out of responsibilities to which one has already committed oneself through marriage. Now, it is possible that my friend might be a little confused by the following verses:

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, KJV

As we saw earlier in this series, it is right after these verses, that Paul informs his readers that being married can serve as a distraction from doing the Lord's Work. Why so? Because when one is married, he or she must also attend to the needs of their spouse. Let me share those verses with you again:

". . . Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you . . . But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife."
1 Corinthians 7:28, 32-33, KJV

Taken in their proper context then, what Paul really appears to be saying in 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 above, is that because they believed that the day of the Lord's Return was soon at hand, he was admonishing the brethren to remain busy in the Lord's service, realizing that their marital status, -- and their earthly status in general -- would soon change. In other words, he was telling them to keep their priorities straight. Regardless of their personal status, and their status in the world, remain focused on doing the Lord's Work.

So again, for the sake of emphasis, let me reiterate that for a man to go without a wife does not mean that a man gets married, and then abstains from sex with his wife. It means that he goes without a wife by never getting married to

begin with. To do otherwise would go against everything we have thus seen regarding "they twain shall become one flesh".

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART 5

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Selfish Desires Versus Faith, All Things Work Together For Good Or Just Some Things?, Trusting Utterly In God's Love For Us, God's Thoughts And Ways Are Above Our Own, Free Will And Personal Choice: God's Will Or Our Own Will, Strive To Make Decisions In Accordance With God's Will, Father Knows Best, Tips Regarding Choosing The Right Marriage Partner, Do Not Marry An Unbeliever, Apostle Paul's Advice To Those Who Are Married To Nonbelievers, Example In Book Of Ezra, God's Will Must Be Supreme In Our Lives, Live Your Life According To Your Own Faith, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discuss from part four, before concluding his email message to me, this young man did honestly admit that there was a degree of selfishness involved which influenced their decision to not have any children. I must concur with that thought. I felt that the fact that he would even tell me this, was a clear indication that the Lord had already begun working in his heart. There was definitely some selfishness in this decision, and I could not help but wonder if perhaps this couple had been affected to some degree by the same selfish spirit which is prevalent in many worldly marriages. This is something they will definitely have to pray about.

My friend also stated that while he felt that he could trust the Lord regarding this matter, his wife had expressed to him that she did not have the same level of faith. In my opinion, this is a major problem. Because she couldn't trust the Lord as she should, believing that He knows what would be best for them, she wanted to take matters into her own hands by taking birth control pills, and thus control her own future. I have already discussed this topic in-depth earlier in this series, so I will not belabor the point. What it really comes down to is one simple verse which I have shared with my readers many times before. Allow me to share this wonderful verse with you once again:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28, KJV

Does Paul say that "some things work together for good"? No! Paul writes "all things work together for good". The primary issue here seems to be how much this couple was willing to submit themselves to the Lord on the altar of His sacrifice, by fully yielding both their spirits, their bodies and their lives to Him. How much were they really willing to cast themselves into His Hands by faith completely, trusting and knowing that as their Heavenly Father who loves them dearly, He would not do anything or allow anything to happen to them, which wasn't a part of His plan, and which would ultimately be to their own benefit; even if they didn't understand it at the time? In the Book of Isaiah, the Prophet wrote as follows:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

So basically, the question was whether this couple wanted to do things God's way or their own way. Did they want to do His Will or their will? Were they willing to trust God for their future, or would they take matters into their own hands and try to control the situation? To be honest, these are really questions which we must all continually ask ourselves, right? Who is really in control of our lives? Who is steering our ship?

This man concluded his message by stating that "it seems that God leaves marriage up to us." I agree. For the most part, God does leave the issue of marriage up to us. As I point out in the article entitled "Free Will and Personal Choice", the Lord does leave it up to us to make the right decisions in our own lives. However, allow me to add once again that we must also strive to make certain that our decisions are in accordance with His Will, particularly the major decisions.

Believe me; I can tell you all about what happens when you make the wrong decisions, particularly those which deal with marriage, but I will spare you. Quite often, it is through making the wrong decisions, that we grow in wisdom, as well as in our submissiveness to the Lord. After one has made enough serious blunders in his life, he begins to realize that maybe "Father Knows Best"! Making mistakes also helps to keep us humble before the Lord.

If there is any advice that I would personally offer to a Christian brother or sister who is contemplating marriage, aside from the old standby of "make sure you really love them", it would have to be, make sure that your potential marriage partner is a God-fearing Christian. If you fail to follow this wise advice, don't be surprised if someday you live to regret it. For example, consider if children begin to come along, and you want to raise them in the fear and knowledge of the Lord, while your spouse opposes this. The sparks will begin to fly, and you will find yourself in a big mess! As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

2 Corinthians 6:14, KJV

When the Lord told the Israelites of the Old Testament not to marry the heathen, it was for a very good reason. He knew exactly what would happen if they did. Not only would it result in genetic corruption, but more importantly, it would result in spiritual corruption and apostasy. Despite God's warnings, as I explain in articles such as the series "The Fruits of Disobedience", those foolish Israelites failed to heed the Lord's warnings, and they ended up paying a dear price for their disobedience.

In similar fashion, if you take an interest in someone who readily admits that they don't share your Christian beliefs, and that they have zero intentions of ever accepting your faith, do NOT view them as a potential marriage partner. In fact, walk away quickly! I don't care how much you feel you are in love with them, or how hot sexually you are for them! You better drop them like a hot potato, or else they might just end up making your life miserable, and as hot as hell!

As you may know, the Apostle Paul likewise had to deal with this problem. However, back then, the situation was a little different. You see, the Christian faith was young, and the word regarding Jesus Christ was just beginning to get around. Because of this fact, when many people came to Christ, they were ALREADY married, and in some cases, the other spouse had no interest in becoming a part of the new movement. It was under these conditions that Paul wrote the following:

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches."

1 Corinthians 7:12-17, KJV

Let me emphasize again, that Paul is giving advice to people who were ALREADY married when they came to know Christ. You will also notice that he is telling his readers that this is not "Thus saith the Lord". In other words, Paul is offering his personal opinion regarding such matters. Furthermore, he is NOT saying to go out and marry a heathen, with the hope that maybe later you can win them to Christ. While that is possible, as Paul even states above, that is not what he is advocating here. In fact, as I point out in other articles, after the Israelites returned to Jerusalem following the Seventy Years of Captivity in Babylon, they brought many

heathen wives with them. These wives had seriously polluted their faith, as well as their genetic heritage. During a great moment of repentance, notice what happened under the leadership of such men as Ezra and Nehemiah:

"And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law . . . And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do."

Ezra 10:2-3, 10-12, KJV

Do you see what those Israelites did? They resolutely made the decision to align their will with God's Will by putting away their heathen wives. They put God's Will above their own will. This must have been a very hard decision for them. After all, some of those men were no doubt really in love with their wives. Yet despite that fact, pleasing the Lord had to come first in their lives.

This very same principle applies to the lives of Christians today. Whether we are discussing marriage, or childbirth, or any other issue, God's Will must be supreme in our lives. To reiterate this point, as with many other things in this life, God does allow us to make our own choices when it comes to marriage. However, if we are wise, and if we truly love Him, we will do our best to try to find a mate who is God-fearing, and who will be pleasing in His sight.

While this decision-making applies to marriage, as of this current time, I have not found anything in the Scriptures which even remotely suggests that God has placed it in our hands to decide whether or not to have children. Nowhere have I found any kind of instructions which give us this authority. The Scriptures plainly state that children are a blessing and "an heritage of the Lord", and nowhere are we

told to prohibit, or to try to control their conception or birth.

On a final note, let me say that I cannot decide God's Will for anyone. All I can do is share the Scriptures with you, and offer what I believe are the general rules of conduct for God's worldwide family. I cannot have faith for you. You must have faith for yourself, and operate accordingly. As the Apostle Paul wrote, you must be fully persuaded in your own mind regarding the Will of God for your life, because you alone will be held accountable for your actions in this life. Consider the following two verses:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

Are you doing good things in your body as Paul states? Or are you going against the Lord's ordained laws regarding childbirth? For those of you who may possibly feel a little uneasy around children, or who worry that you might not make good parents, let me just say this: Please give God a chance to work. Let go of Satan's fears, and grab on to faith. For as the Apostle Paul likewise wrote:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6, KJV

If you accept His Will by faith, you won't be disappointed. If He chooses to reward you with a pregnancy, praise God! Please remember that "the fruit of the womb is His reward". Believe me; once that new creation begins to form in your womb, God is going to begin to work on your heart. As each day, week and month passes, a bond is going to begin to form between you and that child. Furthermore, once that child is born, you are going to fall in love with him or her, and your natural God-given parental instincts will automatically kick in.

You might even feel a little ashamed and ask yourself, "How could I ever not have wanted this? What was I thinking?" That child will then reward you by bringing many moments of joy into your life. As he or she grows up knowing the Lord, you will feel a certain satisfaction in your heart; and someday, you will be able to say "Here Lord; you made me a steward over this child, and this is what I have done with her". So again, please step out by faith and give God a chance to work, won't you?

With these last thoughts, I'll bring this series to a close. I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would also very much appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

Abortion: The Slaughter of the Innocent
Are You Crucified With Christ?
Free Will and Personal Choice
Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church
Mary Worship, Christianity and Roman Catholicism
Murdering Millions by Mail: The Abortion Controversy
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!
Rise of the False Church
Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Holy Trinity
Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?
So You Really Think You Are So Humble?
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!
The Plight of the Children: School Gun Violence!
What Is God's Will For My Life?
When Sin is No Longer a Sin

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