

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS... SELF CONTROL

By Pastor Brian De Jong

“What we need is MORE government, not less government!” When the preacher uttered those words, they produced their desired effect – I was shocked! This from a man who would describe himself as a “Reagan Republican?” More government? Surely not!

After sufficient squirming by his listeners, the speaker explained that he was talking about the need for more self government. Self control is the most fundamental form of human government and is necessary for the effective exercise of all other forms of government.

Without self government, the family inevitably breaks down. Without self government, the church devolves into chaos. Without self government, the civil magistrate vainly seeks to restrain increasing social turmoil. Self government really is absolutely necessary for order in this world. Each man must be able to say “No” to himself, to mean it and, if necessary, to enforce it.

Self control is an important out-growth of God’s gracious salvation, as Paul makes plain: Titus 2: ¹¹ *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,* ¹² *instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,* ¹³ *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,* ¹⁴ *who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for*

Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

God’s grace teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly desires. Particularly and especially we must say “no” to ourselves when faced with such destructive temptations. But self-government also requires that we say “yes” to sensible, righteous and godly alternatives. We have been redeemed from every lawless deed in order to be live pure and holy lives. There is the necessary negative side of self-government as well as the positive aspect. Discouraging sin and promoting righteousness – that is to be our self regulated pattern of living.

And who is responsible for exercising and enforcing this government over your life? You are! You are responsible for you. No one else will be held accountable for the choices and decisions you freely make – they are yours!

Now this may seem impossible if we do not remember two significant truths. First, remember that you have been made alive in Christ – you have new life. You are now dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. That principle of new life in Christ is powerful beyond imagination.

Second, recall that God’s Spirit dwells in you and is working within your life. As He indwells you, He produces the fruit of His powerful presence. Among the luscious fruits of His work is “self control.” Look to the Spirit for the self-control that you need for living a God-glorifying life!



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Mnemonics...

- *Falls OPC Missions Conference, 5-6*
- *Men’s Breakfast & Study, 6th*
- *Joint Service, 14th*

Worship

by R. C. Ryle

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24
“We are the, circumcision, which worship God in the spirit.” Phil. 3:3 *“In vain they do worship Me.”* Matt. 15:9 *“A show of wisdom in will-worship.”* Col. 2:23

WE live in times when there is a vast quantity of public religious worship. Most English people who have any respect for appearances go to some church or chapel on Sundays. To attend no place of worship in this country, whatever may be the case abroad, is at present the exception and not the rule. But we all know that quantity is of little value without quality. It is not enough that we worship sometimes. There remains behind a mighty question to be answered, “How do we worship?”

Not all religious worship is right in the sight of God. I think this is as clear as the sun at noon-day to any honest reader of the Bible. The Bible speaks of worship which is “in vain,” as well as worship which is true, and of “will-worship,” as well as spiritual worship. To suppose, as some thoughtless persons do, that it signifies nothing where we go on Sundays, and matters nothing how the thing is done, provided it is done, is mere childish folly. Merchants and tradesmen do not carry on their business in this fashion. They look at the way their work is done, and are not content with work done anyhow. Let us not be deceived. God is not mocked. The question, “How do we worship?” is a very serious one. . .

II. I proceed, in the second place, to show the leading principles of public worship.

These leading principles are so plain and obvious to any thoughtful reader of the Bible, that I need not dwell on them at any length. But for the sake of some who may not hitherto have given much attention to the subject, I feel it best to state them in order.

(a) For one thing, true public worship must be directed to the right object. It is written plainly, both in the Old and New Testament: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” (Deut. 6:13; Matt. 4:10.) All adoration and prayers addressed to the Virgin Mary, the saints and

angels, is utterly useless, and unwarranted by Scripture. It is worship that is mere waste of time. There is not the slightest proof that the departed saints or the angels can hear our worship, or that if they did hear it they could do anything for us. It is worship that is most offensive to God. He is a jealous God, and has declared that He will not give His glory to another. Of all His Ten Commandments there is none more stringent and sweeping than the Second. It forbids us not only to worship, but even to “bow down” to anything beside God.

(b) For another thing, true public worship must be directed to God through the mediation of Christ. It is written plainly, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” (John 14:6.) It is written of Christians, that they are a people who “come unto God by Christ.” (Heb. 7:25.) The mighty Being with whom we have to do, without controversy, is a God of infinite love, kindness, mercy, and compassion. “God is love.” But it is no less true that He is a Being of infinite justice, purity, and holiness, that He has an infinite hatred of sin, and cannot bear that which is evil. He is the same God that cast down the angels from heaven, drowned the world with a flood, and burned up Sodom and Gomorrah. He who carelessly presumes to draw near to Him without an atonement and a mediator, or by any other mediator than the one Mediator whom He has appointed, will find that he worships in vain. “Our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29.)

(c) For another thing, true public worship must be either directly Scriptural, or deducible from Scripture, or in harmony with Scripture. It is written plainly concerning the Jews of our Lord’s time, “In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matt. 15:9.) No doubt there is a conspicuous absence of particular injunctions about New Testament worship. No doubt there is a reasonable liberty allowed to Churches and congregations in their arrangements about worship. But still the rule must never be forgotten: “Nothing must be required of men contrary to God’s Word.”...

(d) For another thing, true public worship must

Worship Continued...

be an intelligent worship. I mean by that expression that worshippers must know what they are doing. It is written plainly as a charge against the Samaritans, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship." (John 4:22.) It is written of the heathen Athenians, that they ignorantly worshipped an "unknown god." ...He who made man at the beginning made him an intelligent being, with mind as well as body. A worship in which the mind takes no part is useless and unprofitable. It might suit a beast as well as a man.

(e) For another thing, true public worship must be the worship of the heart. I mean by this, that the affections must be employed as well as our intellect, and our inward man must serve God as well as our body. It is written plainly in the Old Testament, and the saying is quoted by Jesus Christ Himself: "This people draweth nigh to Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me." (Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8.) It is written of the Jews in Ezekiel's time: "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." (Ezek. 33:31.) The heart is the principal thing that God asks man to bring in all his approaches to Him, whether public or private. A church may be full of Worshippers who may give God an immense amount of bodily service. There may be abundance of gestures, and postures, and turnings to the East, and bowings, and crossings, and prostrations, and grave countenances, and upturned eyes, and yet the hearts of the worshippers may be at the end of the earth. One may be thinking only of coming or past pleasures, another of coming or past business, and another of coming or past sins. Such worship, we may be very sure, is utterly worthless in God's sight. It is even worse than worthless: it is

abominable hypocrisy. God is a Spirit, and He cares nothing for man's bodily service without man's heart. Bodily service profiteth little. "Man looketh on the outward appearance; but the Lord looketh at the heart." The broken and contrite heart is the true sacrifice, the sacrifice which "God will not despise." (1 Sam. 15:7; Psalm 51:17.)

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(f) In the last place, true public worship must be a reverent worship. It is written, "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil." (Eccles. 5:1.) It is recorded that our Lord Jesus Christ began and ended His ministry with two practical protests against irreverent worship. On two distinct occasions He cast out of the temple the buyers and sellers who were profaning its courts by their traffic, and justified His act by the weighty words, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:13.) People who call themselves Christians, and go to churches and chapels to stare about, whisper, fidget, yawn, or sleep, but not to pray, or praise, or listen, are not a whit better than the wicked Jews. They do not consider that God detests profaneness and carelessness in His presence, and that to behave before God as they would not dare to behave before their sovereign at a

levee or a drawing-room, is a very grave offence indeed. We must beware that we do not rush from one extreme into another. It does not follow, because "bodily service" alone is useless, that it does not matter how we behave ourselves in the congregation. Surely even nature, reason, and common sense should teach us that there is a manner and demeanour suitable to mortal man, when he draws nigh to his Almighty Maker. It is not for nothing that it is written, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly

Worship Concluded...

of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.” (Psalm 89:7.) If it is worth while to attend public worship at all, it is worth while to do it carefully and well. God is in heaven, and we are on earth. Let us not be rash and hasty. Let us mind what we are about. “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” (Heb. 12:28, 29.)

I ask the reader s special attention to the five leading principles which I have just laid down. I fear they strike at the root of the worship of myriads in our own land, to say nothing of... abroad. Thousands of English people, I fear, are regularly spending their Sundays in a worship which is utterly useless. It is a worship without Scripture, without Christ, without the Holy Spirit, without knowledge, without heart, and without the slightest benefit to the

worshippers. For any good they get from it, they might just as well be sitting at home, and not worship at all. Let us take heed that this is not our condition. Let us remember, as long as we live, that it is not the quantity of worship, but the quality that God regards. The inward and spiritual character of the congregation is of far more importance in His sight than the number of the worshippers, or the outward and visible signs of devotion which they exhibit. Children and fools, who admire poppies more than corn, may think all is right when there is a great external show of religion. But it is not so with God. His all-seeing eye looks at the inner man.

Taken from Knots Untied by J. C. Ryle Chapter 13, Worship, 2nd point.

SCCH Job Opportunity

SCCHS is seeking a forensics coach for the 2010 season. Please contact Wayne Dykstra at 920-458-9981 for more information.



A Junior Higher Who Is Now 52

from Rev. Ivan De Master

It is a privilege to be a Christian and to serve the Lord in the opportunities He gives us. We are called to be faithful and to trust the Lord to accomplish His work as He works in and through us. Much of the time we are not shown the outcome of our labors. One plants, another waters, and God gives the increase.

Recently I received this letter from someone who attended VBS many years ago. What an encouragement! It is good to know that here is a man serving the Lord and we had a small part in his spiritual life. I share this to encourage you to be faithful in serving the Lord and to trust that He will bless your labors for Him.

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 10:19 p.m.
Subject: A junior higher who is now 52

Hi Rev. DeMaster,

I'm not sure if this will get to you but hopefully it can be pass on to you. I was looking at my old memory box today and came across a achievement certificate I received from the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westchester Illinois.

The date is July 23, 1971 with your name signed to it. The reason for my writing is to encourage you. You probably will not remember me (I came with George and Gail DeGraf to the vacation bible school) but I remember you. I want to thank you though over 35 years have passed. I remember your zeal for the Lord and your passion for youth. You were a role model to be remember, and you were pretty good as I recall at playing capture the flag. The old barn in

the back of the property that VBS was held at (your house?) was a great location.

As for me, I too like the apostle Paul worked and did ministry. From teaching 6th grade boys Sunday School at age 21 to now leading a men's bible study (age 52 as of today) and teaching at times for our senior class (60 and up).

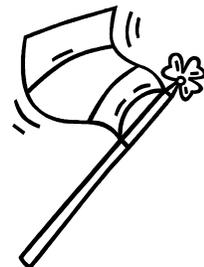
The reason I write is because sometimes we wonder if we have made a difference in the lives of those God has ordained that our lives would come across. You are a man that is a difference maker, know that your ministry affected me and I have fond memories of the two years that I came to VBS. You were one of many who have laid a foundation for me. I believe you would have been the guy weeding with me being of junior high age then.

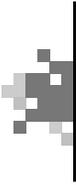
I see you have retired now, but know that Moses started his ministry at age 80. God is not finished with you yet though I am sure you are doing lay ministry for some fortunate church. I am currently enrolling at Moody to prepare myself for ministry. That is why I can tell you that your best days are not behind but ahead.

Thank you on behalf of all those children that you have ministered to. Know that you are loved, even if it take almost 40 years to let you know.

God's blessing upon you and your family

Michael Wozniak





February Birthdays

Monika Doro	1st
Dan TenPas	3rd
Gail Buyze	14th
Ashley Boss	16th
Elijah De Jong	17th
Emily Boss	25th



CHURCH WEBSITE!

Don't forget to check out our church
website! You can find it at:

graceopcsheboygan.com





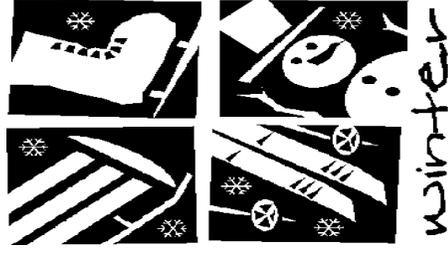
Grace OPC

February 2010

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	2	3 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Missions Conference at Menomonee Falls	6 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 7:30 a.m. <i>Missions Conference</i>
7 2 p.m. Choir Practice at Calvary	8 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	9 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	10 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Missions Sunday <i>6 p.m. Joint Service at Calvary</i>	15 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	16	17 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	23	24 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)						



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The Purposes of Prayer Meeting, Part 1

From John Brown of Haddington (1765)...

1. To promote and increase the knowledge of the truths, ordinances, and works of God (*Co. 3:16; Ps. 111:2*).
2. To express and exercise mutual sympathy among the members (*Rom. 15:1-2; Gal. 6:2*)
3. To provoke and encourage one another to holiness and virtue, in all manner of conversation (*Heb. 10:24-25; Eph. 4:15-16*).
4. To communicate one another's gifts and graces to mutual edification (*1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:12-13*).
5. To render [members to be] faithful and friendly watchers, counselors, and reprovers of one another (*1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 3:13; 10:24*).
6. They [the members] may join together in prayer, praise, and other spiritual exercises (*Matt. 18:19-20*).

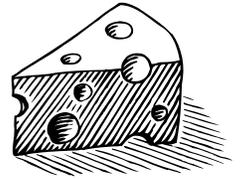


Joint Worship Service

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Joint Worship Service with Bethel, Calvary, & Grace OPC. It will be held on Sunday evening, February 14th at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary OPC. If you are interested in being part of the Joint Choir that will sing that evening, practices will be held January 31st and February 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Calvary.



Ranch Mac & Cheese



“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You
give them
their food in
due time.
You open
Your hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”

- ★ 1 package (16 oz.) elbow macaroni
- ★ 1 cup milk
- ★ 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- ★ 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
- ★ 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- ★ 1 teaspoon garlic pepper blend
- ★ 1 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning
- ★ 1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- ★ 1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Colby cheese
- ★ 1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
- ★ 1/2 cup crushed saltines
- ★ 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions.
2. Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, combine the milk, butter, dressing mix and seasonings; heat through. Stir in Monterey Jack and Colby cheeses until melted. Stir in sour cream.
3. Drain macaroni; stir into cheese sauce with the saltines. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Yield: 8 servings.

From Taste of Home



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

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GRACESHEBOYGAN**

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GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



★ Did you know that Princeton Seminary was organized in 1812 in Princeton, New Jersey?
★ Did you know that it was formed through the direction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church?
★ That its first professor was the Scotch-Irish Rev. Archibald Alexander from Virginia and he started with only a handful of pupils?

★ Did you know that one of the later Princeton professors & principals, the Rev. Charles Hodge was influential in the 1837 Old School, New School split in which he pushed for the anti-modernist Old School movement which held the day?
★ That the New School proponents left the seminary to form their own called Union Seminary located in New York?
★ That Princeton held strong until again convulsed by liberalism & modernism in the early 1900s?
★ Did you know that Dr. Gresham Machen not only studied but later taught at Princeton Seminary?
★ That it was he who stood against the modernism in the school and when all failed, left to create the Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia?
★ Did you know that although attacked by liberalism in 1936 Westminster followed the newly formed OPC, and remained-committed to the truths of the Reformation?

*Information found at <http://www.ptsem.edu/About/mission.php>,
http://opc.org/today.html?history_id=16,
<http://encyclopedia.stateuniversity.com/pages/12002/John-Gresham-Machen.html>
http://opc.org/today.html?history_id=56
Kuiper, B.K., *The Church in History* (Grand Rapids: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1951), 449, 450-451, 472-473.*

2010 Missions Conference

There will be a Missions Conference at Falls OPC in Menomonee Falls on March 5 & 6. The speakers will be Rev. Mike McCabe, missionary serving in China and Rev. Chris Sandoval of the Hispanic Bible Ministry in Cicero, IL. On Friday evening there will be a pizza night with the missionaries for grades 7-12. Check your bulletin inserts or speak with the church secretary for a registration form. Saturday will begin with coffee

and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. The program will end at 12:20 p.m. with lunch. There will be separate classes for children as well as a nursery.

Registrations must be received by February 27. Contact the church secretary or Falls Church with any questions at 262-255-1111.

