

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.

Luke 11

1And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

To my knowledge there is no scripture where it is showing John the Baptist teaching his disciples how to pray but apparently that had happened. Likewise, there is no indication of where exactly this event took place, all we know is that it was before Jesus entered Jerusalem and he had with him at least some of the 12 apostles and many of His Disciples. They had all seen and heard Jesus pray and His prayers were different, they were like a conversation with God, not just the same words over and over. So, Jesus was going to give them the “prayer formula” for lack of a better term. We will break the formula down; don’t be cast into saying these exact words all the time, it’s not a sin but it is given to us by Jesus to learn many facets of who God is and what He wants of us.

2And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Jesus wanted all of us to know that an adoption was coming; but in this verse He was speaking directly to the Hebrew Nation,

God's Chosen people. We the members of Christ's Church big(C) church were all going to be adopted by God as His children. So this prayer is for us now, and has been since Pentecost.

When we speak to our Father, the Creator God of all things we are to do so with awe and respect.

Father is a term we use about our earthly fathers who gave us life. In the grander scheme of physical and spiritual we have Father; as in God the Father. Again, from Strong's Concordance we find one version of Father referencing God as this in a certain context;

[3962](#) /patér ("father") is used of our heavenly Father. He imparts life, from physical birth to the gift of eternal life through the second birth (regeneration, being born again). Through ongoing sanctification, the believer more and more resembles their heavenly Father – i.e. each time they receive faith from Him and obey it, which results in their unique glorification.

We are to keep our Heavenly Father's name Holy;

In Strong's Concordance, the Greek word for "Hallowed" is; *hagiazó*;

Phonetic Spelling: (hag-ee-ad'-zo)

Definition: to make holy, consecrate, sanctify

Usage: I make holy, treat as holy, set apart as holy, sanctify, hallow, purify.

Anytime we utter the name of God the Father it is to be done with respect and honor. The Hebrews would not even write out the name of God out of respect.

How many times do you hear people today just throw out the word “God” as if it were any other ordinary word? Common conversation with no sense of propriety for that name?

The word God can be one of two things and it is in the context that we know it’s meaning. The pagans had many god’s small “g”. Within Christianity and starting with Adam and Eve there is but ONE GOD, Yahweh but He has many names and each one describes an attribute of the Most High Creator God our Father.

Transliteration: theos

Phonetic Spelling: (theh'-os)

Definition: God, a god

Usage: (a) God, (b) a god, generally.

The names of God in a beautiful melody from;

<https://www.godisreal.today/names-of-god/>

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Exactly where is God’s Kingdom? Perhaps better stated where isn’t God’s Kingdom; He created it all from the heights of heaven to the depths of Hell, He is the Creator God. But there is part of

that Kingdom that is far better than the other, these two parts of His Kingdom are separated as far as the East is from the West; from His Presence to Hell.

We are to ask God that His Will would be done on earth just as it is in Heaven.

Q. Is God willing to do that?

Yes

Q. Has it happened?

No

Q. Why not?

Man's free will to choose evil or good and Satan's influence on man's will.

As believers our desire is to have God's Will done on earth and in our lives; but we in our free will often choose evil over good. If there is anything stopping God's Will from being carried out here on earth it is us.

3Give us day by day our daily bread.

We are in fact dependent on Him for everything from each breath and heartbeat to every meal we have. Without Him we have nothing and nothing to look forward to.

4And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

Forgiveness is a bit tricky; you see we want total forgiveness, yet we sometimes hold off giving that forgiveness to other people. Think about this, if God used the same methods and level of forgiveness, we show others; exact what would that look like to us. His forgiveness is conditioned upon one thing; repentance. What is our forgiveness conditioned on?

*Acts 3:19 **Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*

*Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance** unto life.*

And what has God done with our sins, our transgressions?

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

This has always been a challenging verse in that it seems like it is saying that God does lead us into temptation but in this prayer, we are asking Him not to do that this time? Of course, that is

absurd, God would not lead us into sin, however, God is fully aware of the sin that permeates this life every minute of every day. What we are asking Him for is the strength and power to overcome those attacks against us. God will allow us to undergo certain attacks but He will never allow us to be attacked in a way that we cannot survive if we rely on Him.

Reading a study about Satan and his attacks at this site;

<https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/satan-attack-christians-devil-three-schemes/>

The basis of the argument is that Satan has three principals of attacks; against Christians as well as the unsaved. Lies, Temptation and Manipulation.

Lies: Satan is the father of lies

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Temptation: Satan cannot enter a believer, but he can put temptation in your path.

John 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

James 1:3 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.

Manipulation: Satan is a manipulator of, he is not all powerful, but he can manipulate situations to cause thoughts to enter our minds.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The poor unbeliever is stuck with Satan, enticing him or her to sin and they have nowhere to turn but to their own devices which are empty and fruitless. But mankind is evil by nature of the fall of mankind in the garden and passed on through birth. So how can evil save them from evil. There is only one way to salvation and safety; the Blood of Christ. **If you are loss, turn to Christ He will save you!**

1 John 3:8

The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil.

But for the believer; we the believer must walk in obedience to Jesus Commandments;

1 John 2:4

If anyone says, "I know Him," but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

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Walking in obedience to God, to Jesus Commandments sets us apart from the world. But that setting apart only comes from asking Jesus to be Lord of your life and being obedience in righteousness. If you ask Christ into your heart and then continue to walk as the world walks in your language and your actions, the truth is not in you. Go back to the beginning and truly ask Jesus to be Lord of your Life and then surrender to Him, He will save you.

1 John 3:10

By this the children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil: Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

This is Jesus prayer for each believer;

John 17:15 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. 16They are not of the world, even as I

am not of the world. 17Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Also, from the “Reason for Hope” web site within the article and I’ll quote them here about Satan’s ultimate goal and that is “distraction”.

“Distraction

*C.S. Lewis illustrated this clearly in his book *The Screwtape Letters*, which tells of a senior demon, Screwtape, who instructs his apprentice nephew, Wormwood, on ways he can make Christians forget their beliefs, distance themselves from God, and ultimately sin. All of this, he taught, can be accomplished with distraction:*

*“What we want, if men become Christians at all, is to keep them in the state of mind I call **‘Christianity And’**. You know—*Christianity and the Crisis, Christianity and the New Psychology, Christianity and the New Order, Christianity and Faith Healing, Christianity and Psychical Research, Christianity and Vegetarianism, Christianity and Spelling Reform.*”¹*

Satan’s goal is to separate you from Christ, and he does this through Lies, Temptation and Manipulation.

When I first got into law enforcement, we were all warned about the things that would end your career and they listed three things. These were not Christians that were warning us mind you, these were experienced Peace Officers that had seen many careers ended by falling into one or all of these traps. They didn't mention Satan, but I know he is the source; the three were, boos, broads and bucks. Drinking/drugs, ill-advised intimate relationships, and money. I think these three lies that Satan uses today are among the most effective tools he has to deceive, distract and destroy.

The disciples asked for method of praying to God that was similar to how He prayed. The formula is;

God first,

Holiness in our walk,

seeking God's Kingdom every minute of every day,

food and provisions for the Spirit in each of us, daily

protection from evil every minute of each day,

and acknowledging that God is the source of all good things and

the only way to eternity with Jesus.

Jesus will now take his disciples and us on a path to understand how important it is to ask God for what we need but to understand that He knows what we need He just wants to know that we seek

only Him in those needs. There are a couple of caveats we will discuss at the end of the parable.

5And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; **6**For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? **7**And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. **8**I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Q. Does anyone know what “importunity” means?

It means persistence, in the Greek it means shameless persistence or shameless greed. From Strong’s Concordance;

Transliteration: anaideia

Phonetic Spelling: (an-ah'-ee-die-ah')

Definition: shamelessness

Usage: shamelessness, shameless persistence (e.g. in greed).

We will put this in a context perhaps we will all understand in a moment. This parable is probably based on a lot of actualities; it was common for people to travel at night in the summer to avoid the heat of the day. It was also common for families to retire early and all in one bed in the main room of the house or on the roof top again due to heat. A friend who is traveling needs a place to

stay or some food; no phones, no email, no text, no Instagram, just show up at the door.

The image is actually of God described as the man asleep and unwilling in the opinion of the one asking for help to rise and give him what he needs. The perspective is from man not from God. Man sees God as either not hearing our prayers or refusing to answer. The point Jesus is making is that of being persistent in your requests. I wonder if there isn't another issue at hand here and that is praying for what God's Will is instead of what our will or desire is. Not to say that you can't ask, as Jesus says "Ask". That implies that there is no limitation just simply ask.

We may go astray with that interpretation and assumption. We need to be prudent in what we ask for; the first criteria is that we seek God's Will ask for what He wants to give us.

Q. Does God know what we want before we ask for it?

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

In my opinion there are verses that some take to mean that you can ask whatever you want, and people think you should expect to get it. It falls in line with nonsense of positive thinking or the

prosperity gospel: God will give you all the money you need just ask for it.

The fact is that the Bible is pretty clear in that first of all God knows what you NEED before you ask, He also knows what you want but He places the priority on NEED not want. Your need and His Will are often in alignment and He will take care of your needs if you are walking in His Will.

We all have all kinds of wants in our lives and God is simply not God to be our personal piggy bank. He is God and we are His servants and that perspective needs to be realized and followed.

9And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you;

The word “Ask” according to Strong’s Concordance is;

Phonetic Spelling: (ahee-teh'-o)

Definition: to ask, request

Usage: I ask, request, petition, demand.

The definition does not give us much clarity on the idea of asking whatever you want so we need to look elsewhere. We need to go back for starters to verse 8 of Luke 11;

8I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

What is the last word in this verse?

“Needeth”

This would be one of the verses people will manipulate to accommodate what their personal wants are. Remember Matthew’s Gospel 6:8 differentiates between wants and needs as does vs 8 in Luke 11.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have **need** of, before ye ask him.

We know that Jesus is our intercessor, that our prayers and request apparently go through Him to the Father. That is what an intercessor is, and intercessor stands between you and the judge.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh **intercession** for us.

The Greek word for “Intercession” in Strong’s Concordance is;

Phonetic Spelling: (en-toong-khan'-o)

Definition: to chance upon, by implication confer with, entreat

Usage: (a) I meet, encounter, hence: (b) I call (upon), make a petition, make suit, supplication.

This word is used 5 times in the New Testament and each time it is specifically referring to Jesus taking a person’s petition to or before God. That person may be a believer or a heathen, regardless, Jesus is there to help.

To be quite frank if our good deeds are as filthy rags before God what do you suppose our clumsy petitions must be like before Him, if Jesus did not package them in an appropriate manner; what a tangled mess it would appear to be to God.

We can and should think we are in the presence of God, but I would submit to you that in our method of jurisprudence a person charged with a crime is in the presence of the Judge. Rarely if ever does the accused speak directly to the judge, it is always or most usually through the accused counsel. The reason being that, the intercessor, the legal counsel, knows how to phrase requests in a manner that the court accepts as valid and is able to rule on. I am not trying to equate God's Chamber to that of a human court, I am merely pointing out the need for an intercessor the likes of Jesus Christ when we go before the Creator of the Universe. He is our Father in Heaven and we can speak to Him, but our intercessor is always there to speak on our behalf in beautiful and gracious words to His Father.

Luke 11:9 continues....

seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Just like the petition or request we need to consider this "Seek" and "knock". If you were to seeking in the wrong place, let's say

you wanted to seek a deeper understanding of God's Word so you went to say the Jehovah Witness, or Hinduism do you suppose just because you are seeking, that God is going to answer your prayer there. He may well, put someone in front of a person seeking like that and bring them to His Son, but just because we seek; we have to seek in the right place and that is in His Word.

The same with knocking, it had better be the right door, there are plenty of doors out there to knock on that are either controlled by Satan or by an enemy of God in some other IE Environmental, Scientific, Astronomy, anything other than the Word of God. It is futile and fruitless to pursue.

10For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The major caveat in any of these three methods of learning, is that it has to be within God's Will, and we have to be walking in that Will. He will then give us all our NEEDS.

11If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much

more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

God DOES want to give you what you need, but He will only respond when we are being obedient to Him. The man of the house arose finally and gave his friend what he NEEDED. God sometimes does not respond immediately to prayer; He hears it but in His infinite Wisdom there may be something more important that we NEED to learn that for Him to give us something even though we may NEED it, He knows whether or not we NEED it at that moment. Patience is one of the virtues of God's Holy Spirit and for human beings one of the more challenging gifts to operate in is patience.

A House Divided

[\(Matthew 12:22-30; Mark 3:20-27\)](#)

14And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. 15But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. 16And others, tempting *him*, sought of him a sign from heaven.

As the saying goes "no good deed goes unpunished". Christ was removing evil spirits and one was from a man that could not speak. Once the evil spirit was gone the man spoke and it shook the on lookers. There was obviously another deep state

Sanhedrin member in the crowd and so as it says; in order to tempt or catch Christ in some violation of their own thinking, they tried to get him to give them a sign from heaven; as if removing demons wasn't good enough.

The obvious allegation was that he was removing Satan by Satan.

17But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house *divided* against a house falleth.

One person or a group or a nation cannot fight against itself or it will destroy itself. We are seeing that in the US and around the world. Ongoing battles of good and evil from within a single group or nation, history has shown the outcome to be disastrous. That is what Satan wants; destruction.

18If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. 19And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? therefore shall they be your judges.

Jesus' point here is that whomever you are allegiant to the same will judge you. If you are allegiant to Satan, in a sense Satan judges you. There is only one judge and if you align with Satan then you will in essence receive the same judgement that you

master receives from God. So, in essence your master is judging you or condemning you to the same plight as his own.

20But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

This verse simply verifies who the ultimate Judge is; it is God and God will judge Satan and all of those who follow him. It only takes God's finger to cast out devils, intimating the power of God as compared to that of demons and the devil.

21When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

There is another old saying, "There is always someone tougher, stronger, faster than you are." That is until God arrives on the scene, He is the ultimate; no one judges Him, no one Oversees Him, He is the Creator and we are His Creation and He can do as He pleases with us.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Psalms 100:3

Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

23He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

The ultimate accusation, if you are not walking with Christ then you are walking against Him, if you are not part of the disciples that are gathering the grain for the harvest then you are scattering contrary to God's Will.

Return of an Unclean Spirit

(Matthew 12:43-45)

24When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

There is a tradition within the Talmud that evil spirits when cast out would frequent ruins and desert places waiting an opportunity to embody some animal or person. According to this verse, the tradition has some foundation Biblically. The cast out evil spirit apparently relished the idea of returning to its former abode that it was cast from.

25And when he cometh, he findeth *it* swept and garnished. 26Then goeth he, and taketh *to him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first.

As a side note, in the verses it refers to the evil spirit as “he” yet when you research the verse in both Hebrew and Greek it omits the gender specific of “he” and refers to the evil spirit as “it”. I am unaware of any place in the Bible that a gender is assigned to evil spirits.

Back to vs 26, this evil spirit once it is aware that it can return to its former abode it finds seven other spirits ostensibly more wicked and takes them with it. The inclusion of more evil spirits, as one would imagine, makes the host worse off than before the exorcism.

The key is to fill the void created by the removal of the evil spirits with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is present there is no room for the evil spirit to return nor is the evil spirit allow to return to its former abode. NO VACANCY

True Blessedness

[27](#)And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28](#)But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

We recall when Mary was first told of her intended pregnancy that the angel told her; “blessed art thou among women”. That not being reported until the gospels were written when spoken by this woman to Jesus must have been Holy Spirit inspired. Jesus took it as an opportunity to respond by pointing to something more important; “Yea rather”, in the Greek is “on the contrary”, “blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.”

We have two juxtapositions presented here; Mary being blessed by being Jesus mother and Jesus saying that the real blessed person is the one who gets to **hear the Word of God AND Keep IT**. There is that obedience thing again. Mary was obedient and was blessed for being so. We as hearers of the Word will be blessed as well if we KEEP the Word; be doers of the Word.

The Sign of Jonah

(Matthew 12:38-42)

29And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. 30For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Jesus calls upon the people to not look for a sign in order to believe but simply believe based on what they had seen with their

own eyes and heard with their own ears. Jesus referred to the generation He was speaking of as an evil generation and He gives the reason for that statement as being “they seek a sign”.

If we read from Matthew, we get a more detailed description of this moment due to the fact that Matthew was present when it happened.

Matthew 12: [38](#)Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. [39](#)But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: [40](#)For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41](#)The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. [42](#)The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Again, the attribution of being an evil generation is actually directed at the religious leaders of the day. They were the ones that repeatedly asked for a sign. In this instance they wanted a sign that Jesus was not casting out demons by Satan, but a sign that would show He was really casting out demons by God's Power. Jesus would not be drawn into their evil plans and simply refused but instead told the people to **“believe”**.

[31](#)The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. [32](#)The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

Jesus alludes to a well-known historical event when Queen of Sheba which is today's Yemen, visited Jerusalem and met King Solomon. It was believed he was the wisest man to live and the Queen was impressed. The meeting led to trade being opened up in her country as well as a good deal of the middle east and the people of this day still held King Solomon in great esteem. Jesus told the people that one greater than Solomon was here.

Jesus draws this historic event into another historic event and that was the plight of Jonas having been in the whale three days before being cast back alive on the shore near Nineveh. Jonas against his will prophesied against the Ninevites and they repented from the King on down. The wisdom of repentance at the preaching of Jonas saved their lives and their nation.

That was paired with the wisdom of King Solomon as both decisions being of great wisdom. Now Jesus pulls the religious

leaders in close in a manner of speaking and tells them that there is a greater one in their presence that King Solomon and Jonas.

He was of course speaking of Himself; but they could not fathom that idea even though they knew one day the Messiah would come. But they were looking for a warring King Messiah, one who would throw off the shackles of their enemies.

The Lamp of the Body

[\(Matthew 6:22-24\)](#)

33No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth *it* in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

The implications are clear, light is intended to spread out allowing a person to see. Concealing a light is counterproductive.

34The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when *thine* eye is evil, thy body also *is* full of darkness.

Jesus draws our attention away from the source of illumination and directs it toward the recipient of the illumination and declares in the human body the eye is the receptacle of light.

He uses a term here that needs to be understood so the verse makes sense. The term is “the eye is single”.

In the Greek the word is;

Phonetic Spelling: (hap-looce')

Definition: simple, single

It means that the eye is not seeing double as in double vision, unclear, requiring correction.

When the eye is operating as designed by God it sees clearly and so the body is full of light. In the Christian sense when the eye sees the Word of God clearly the entire body is filled with the Light of Christ.

On the other hand, when the “eye is evil” in the Greek;

Phonetic Spelling: (pon-ay-ros')

Definition: toilsome, bad

Usage: evil, bad, wicked, malicious, slothful.

This eye would be faulty, perhaps even blind and seeks to look at things that are not of God, this eye then causes the entire body to operate in darkness. It is the manipulation by Satan that leads men and women of all ages to seek darkness rather than light, to seek sin rather than righteousness.

35Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. 36If thy whole body therefore *be* full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

I believe there is only one method of ensuring that the eye is filled with light and that is to walk in obedience to God's Word. We have discussed the many ways and weapons that Satan uses against mankind; his most powerful weapons distract us from seeking God.

Again, the excerpt from the Screw Tape Letters;

*“What we want, if men become Christians at all, is to keep them in the state of mind I call ‘**Christianity And**’. You know—Christianity and the Crisis, Christianity and the New Psychology, Christianity and the New Order, Christianity and Faith Healing, Christianity and Psychical Research, Christianity and Vegetarianism, Christianity and Spelling Reform.”¹”*

Distractions from God's Word and obedience to it is the goal of Satan.

Woes to Pharisees and Experts in Law

[\(Matthew 23:1-36\)](#)

37And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

38And when the Pharisee saw *it*, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. 39And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

There is no lost motion with Jesus, by not washing before sitting to dinner He knew He would draw out this religious leader without having to say a word. For our benefit the Lord needed this man to accuse Him of being somehow unclean to sit for dinner.

The offense is that a grand ritual had been devised by religious leaders according to the Talmud.

Talmud (literally, “study”) is the generic term for the documents that comment and expand upon the [Mishnah](#) (“repeating”), the first work of rabbinic law, published around the year 200 CE by Rabbi Judah the Patriarch in the land of Israel.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/talmud-101/>

When Jesus entered the home, He went directly to the dinner table and did not abide by any of the religious traditions of washing.

Jesus just after having described that it is what enters through the eye that can make a person clean or unclean is now going to move to another part of the body that the religious leader felt would allow uncleanness to enter the body. Washing was the whole point of cleansing one’s hands so as not to ingest unclean germs etc. but the Jewish leaders had expanded on that to an extreme and Jesus was going to challenge them on that idea.

[40](#) Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? [41](#) But rather give alms

of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

The religious leader makes fun of Christ at His not going through the senseless ritual. Jesus points to the Creator God as the one who makes the outside of the person as well as the inside. The religious leaders were committed to making the outside look great but gave little thought to the inside, the Spiritual reality.

February 23, 2020

In last week study we saw Jesus being invited into the home of a religious scholar for a meal. When Jesus did not go through the custom of washing before He sat at for the meal his host ridiculed Him. Jesus response continues here to the religious elite that created so called laws far beyond what God had declared to Mosses.

42But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 43Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets. 44Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware *of them*.

Jesus calls out the religious leaders in their error of order of importance. They place importance on the man-made law over humanity even expanding the law through the Talmud about what is to be tithed. In their defense it was the season of Law the forerunner to the season of Grace. However, God always offered Grace to those who were obedient in their hearts. They would pass these laws yet exempt themselves from many requirements rather granting themselves seats of importance in the various councils.

45Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

“Reproachest” means to address someone with the desire to express disappointment or disapproval.

If you recall the Lawyer was synonymous with Scribe; those who would study and teach the Law and the Prophets in the seminaries of the day. It is doubtful that an ordinary lawyer outside of the religious orders would be offended by what Jesus said.

46And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. 47Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48Truly ye

bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Jesus point was that instead of standing up for the common man, these scribes or religious lawyers doubled down on the expanding the law given to Moses; beyond the bounds of what God wanted or would allow. They in a sense sentenced their own countrymen to trying to abide by laws that they themselves would not even consider having to abide by. These lawyers and scribes had seen their fathers do this and they continued in that vein against God's Will.

49Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they shall slay and persecute: 50That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; 51From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

This long-standing process that men had built resembles the processes of today that we see. We see men and women elected to govern a nation and what do they do with their time; they attack each other in a manner to discredit the other and foment their own positions so no one can dislodge them. They pass laws that they themselves are exempt from. They take money and bribes and

steal from the treasury and from their supporters all in an attempt to remain untouched.

That is what Jesus was accusing these religious elites of His day. He recounts specific prophets that were killed by the religious leaders throughout history. Anytime in our history when men and women of God dared call out the evil doers they were often meet with violence and often killed. When God's prophets were killed it kindled a fire within God that the nation of Israel that tolerated the killings would be punished.

The religious leaders of the day Jesus spoke about this went beyond so far what todays politicians have done and that is they had people killed to carry out their nefarious deeds. Our leaders have not gone that far yet;

Jesus was declaring to them that their very generation would pay the full price for all the murders of prophets that had happened from the time of the Law was given until this day. Within 40 years of this declaration, Jerusalem would be conquered, and the temple would be destroyed, not one stone standing upon another would remain. 70 AD Romans and the armies of Rome would destroy Jerusalem.

52Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

Lawyers and or scribes would not allow the common man to see the words of the prophets and or interpret them in a way that was beneficial to themselves.

Recall the dark ages when the Roman Church would not allow anyone other than the priest to read the Word of God. It stifled inquiry as to what God wanted from the common man and woman; they were at the complete mercy or lack thereof from the clergy, the priests and the Pope.

We live in a day today that you are encouraged to study the Bible and seek the answers from God to your questions about life. Few people take advantage of daily Bible Study, it is like they have no purpose in studying God's Word, they will let someone else do it and tell them what it says. Laziness is what it amounts to and a failure to walk in obedience to God's Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Dividing;

Phonetic Spelling: (or-thot-om-eh'-o)

Definition: to cut straight

Usage: I cut straight; met: I handle correctly, teach rightly.

If it can be divided rightly that means it can also be divided incorrectly.

Do you know it is possible to wrongly divide the Word of God?

God in the Old Testament encouraged His People to search out the Law and the Prophets; that they would know how-to walk-in obedience.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

God wants us to seek the Treasures He has set before us; does anyone remember this song;

“One Tin Soldier” by Joan Baez



Christ Himself is the greatest Treasure man has been given by God; Christ is His Word, and His Word is Christ.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 1:1 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

52Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

53And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge *him* vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: 54Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

The religious leaders operated much the same as Satan does;

Revelation 12: 10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, **which accused them before our God day and night.**