



The Mind Of Christ

THE MIND OF CHRIST

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” (1Corinthians 2:16)

If we have the mind of Christ, the question naturally arises – how did we get it? I suppose that I have read this verse a hundred times. On the surface it seems simple enough and I was willing to accept it at face value – if for no other reason, I was willing to be ignorant of any deeper meaning that it may conceal. Ignorance has its rewards; namely, it affords one the luxury of being lazy. I have the mind of Christ – ok, if you say so that is good enough for me. Then one day I read the passage again and it just was not good enough anymore. If I have the mind of Christ – how did I get it? What is it and what has it done for me? ***“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” (1Corinthians 2:12)*** Whoa! Things just got worst! Not only do I have this mind of Christ to search out, but now I have this spirit which is of God to explain! First a mind, then a spirit or was it the other way around: spirit – mind? Maybe the two things are one and the same. So, I began to dig beneath its surface, and this is what I found:

God's Word Is Spirit

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63) God speaks and hopefully man listens. When a man receives the words of God into his heart, by faith, he also receives the spirit of those words, and ***“the spirit quickeneth...”***. The spirit gives life. God's words gives life within the hearts of those who willingly receive them: new life. God rejuvenates, or quickens, the spirit of man by indwelling him, but how is this indwelling accomplished? John tells us that the words of God are spirit and they are life. Through the transference of words comes the transference of thoughts, and in the embodiment of those thoughts; there dwells a spirit. Words convey

thoughts, thoughts are the embodiment of spirit, and the spirit brings forth life. ***“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.” (Mark 4:26-27)*** Life is in the seed – and the seed is the word of God. ***“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Peter 1:23)***

Words Are To Convey Thoughts

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God.” (1Corinthians 2:11) In order for one man to know another man, there must be an exchange. One man must reveal his spirit to the other man. To accomplish this exchange, thoughts are translated into words within the mind of the first man and are then convey in words to the second man. Those words contain the thoughts and the intent of the first man's heart. You cannot know me otherwise. The spirit of a man exists within his thoughts. Those thoughts are clothed in words for the purpose of conveying those thoughts from one man's spirit to another man's spirit. And as those thoughts are conveyed, the spirit of the man is revealed. ***“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7)***. In order for this transference to be complete, there must be a willingness on the part of the other man to receive it. In the case of the “things of God” there must be faith. Faith must be present in the mind of the hearer in order to receive those things which God wishes to convey to us through His Spirit. ***“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them (Israel): but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” (Hebrews 4:2)*** If the words of God are to profit you, they must be mixed with faith; they must be believed. ***“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)***

(Continued on Page 2)

Repentance Must Come First

“It is God that worketh in us both to will and to do his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) Before there can be a performance, there first must be a willing mind. A willing mind must proceed a willingness to do (2 Corinthians 8:11-12). Repentance is defined in (2 Timothy 2:25-26) as an acknowledging of the truth, and a recovering of oneself out of the snare of the devil. ***“...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*** (Romans 10:17) The gospel will produce faith in the hearer by promoting self-doubt. In order for an individual to believe the Gospel, the truth, he must first stop believing in the lie – I am not that bad, I am basically good; which is the snare of the devil. As a man turns towards God, he will at the same time, turn away from self. It is the truth, which frees us from self and from the devil’s snare. It is the wonderful truth about God and the awful truth about our selves that causes us to repent.

The Preaching Of The Cross Is The Power Of God

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” (1 Corinthians 2:4) The power of God is embodied in the preaching of the cross. If a man receives the words of truth conveyed in the gospel, he receives also the spirit embodied within those words. Paul said, ***“This only would I learn of you. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”*** (Galatians 3:2) As the Spirit is received it reveals the mind of the sender: the author. ***“Now we have not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”*** (1 Corinthians 2:12) Jesus said in John 6:63, ***“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*** Through his word, God not only conveys his thoughts, but he also conveys to us his Spirit: those that receive God’s words into their hearts, receives His Spirit with them. ***“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”*** ***“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”*** (1 John 4:13 & 15)

The Natural Man Receives Not The Things Of The Spirit

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Cor. 2:14) Without faith, the spirit of the hearer is alienated from the truth.

He deems the preaching of the cross to be foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18 & 24) and so he readily dismisses it as such. He refuses to receive the truth: in hearing, he hears not, and is therefore shut off from the spirit, which is embodied within the gospel. ***“Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.”*** ***“And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.”*** (John 8:43, 45-47) ***“For it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*** (1 Corinthians 1:21)

The Spirit Of The World

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world...” (1 Corinthians 2:12), also known as: ***“...the spirit which now worketh in the children of disobedience”*** (Ephesians 2:2), which spirit is embodied in the words of men, among other things, and is conveyed to individuals as worldly wisdom or the wisdom of words. ***“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”*** (1 Corinthians. 1:17). Referred to as ***“excellency of speech”*** (1 Corinthians. 2:1), ***“enticing words”*** (1 Corinthians. 2:4), and ***“philosophy and vain deceit”*** (Colossians 2:8) – the world seeks after wisdom and yet the world by wisdom cannot know God (1 Corinthians 1:21). With enticing words and fair speech, the hearts of men are deceived by worldly wisdom. It robs the simple of hope, and it corrupts the minds of them that believe not. The word of God says that men will perish because, ***“...they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

The Discerner Of Thoughts

God’s Spirit causes us to discern our own thoughts and the intentions of our own hearts, ***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*** (Hebrews 4:12). This is accomplished as we are led to compare our thoughts against God’s thoughts: as contained in His word.

(Continued on page 3)

This comparison teaches us who we really are, and it reveals to us who God really is. ***“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God.”*** (1 Corinthians 2:10) This process of discernment is accomplished as the Spirit utilizes God’s words to formulate new thoughts within the mind of man; thoughts which were alien to us prior to the hearing of God’s word. Man begins to understand his own evil as he compares his thoughts against the truth embodied within the words of God. Slowly, he begins to reject old thoughts as he begins to replace them with new thoughts: thoughts conveyed to his spirit by the words of God. This process is known as the renewing of the mind.

The Renewing Of The Mind

“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. 12:2) This renewing process takes place in stages as our carnal mind, which is death (Romans. 8:6), gives way to spiritual mindedness, which is life and peace (Romans. 8:6). It is a growth process, closely resembling physical growth. After that we are “Born Again,” we begin the process as babes in Christ and continue on until we are fully matured (1 Corinthians 3:1-2). Spiritual maturity is dependent upon, first learning, and then using God’s word. As a result of spiritual exercise, we are able to use our senses to discern both good and evil (Hebrews. 5:12-14). But babes in Christ and carnal Christians are not able to use the word of God skillfully (Hebrews. 5:13), they are unlearned, and in understanding, they are children (1 Corinthians 14:20). The renewing process is often times hindered, when conformity to this present evil world sets in, producing spiritual dwarfs.

Let This Mind Be In You

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philip. 2:2-8)

In the Old Testament, God determined to descend upon Mount Sinai, in the sight of all the people so

He could speak to the children of Israel: ***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.”*** (Exodus 19:10-11) But when the people saw the Lord descending upon the top of the mountain in fire, and with thundering, and lightening, and thick smoke, and the whole mount shook and quaked greatly; they all feared, and they removed, and they stood afar off. And they would not hear God, and they desired that God not speak to them, lest they die. So, they besought Moses, that he might stand in the gap between God and them.

We serve an awesome and terrible God; a God so holy that He cannot tolerate sin. These people knew that they were sinful, that they were selfish creatures whose hearts were full of evil. ***“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*** (Romans 1:29-32) These people knew that God was holy and they were worthy of death; so, they feared greatly at the sight of God, clothed in a thick cloud of darkness, and removed, and stood afar off.

But God desired to fellowship with them, He desired to speak to them, He desired to let them know how greatly He loved them; but they stood afar off; but God wrote His thoughts in a book and gave it to us. ***“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. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*** (Isaiah 55:8-11) ***“Come now,***

(Continued on page 4)

and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. (Isaiah 1:18)

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die...” (Ezekiel 33:11) Why indeed. Won't you come? Won't you reason with God? He proved His love toward you when He sent His Son to die on a cross in your place; for your sin; that He might forgive you and give you life everlasting.

Call upon Him now, ***“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”*** (2 Corinthians 6:2)

It Is Testimony Time

The first time I can remember having inward thoughts about God was when I was about 10 years old. I was walking to church on a snowy Sunday and looking at the fresh snow and thinking how beautiful God's creation was. Being raised a Catholic, I had a knowledge of God; I never questioned if Jesus was God, or about the trinity, or even prayer. I can remember the first time I had knowledge of sin: I was walking home from school, and I stole a candy bar from a store: I remember thinking that it was wrong (but it sure did taste good.)

When I was in sixth grade, I met my future husband at a family wedding: John Klem was a friend of my cousin in Rochester: we had great fun at the wedding, before I went back to Hamburg, which is where I was raised. Like most teenagers, I went through my rebellious years before finally graduating in 1973.

The summer following my graduation, I went to visit my cousin again in Rochester and was introduced to John Klem again. One thing led to another, and John and I were married in 1975. (Note: John grew up and went to school with Marty White, Peggy Johnson, & Ruthie Bianchi – you can see where this is going.) John and I were blessed with a premature baby that same year.

During this difficult period, I was diagnosed with a common virus called CMV. At some point in my life (only God knows when), I had contracted this virus

and never knew it. Once contracted, CMV generally lies dormant in the body with no harmful side effects, however, because I had a compromised immune system, it became active and caused harmful effects during my pregnancy.

John Samson was a very sickly child, and when he was about six months, he started to have seizures. He was in and out of the hospital; it was a terrible thing to watch your helpless little baby go through what John Samson went through. When he was 9 months old, he came down with pneumonia and had to be hospitalized again. Looking back, that period of time was such a blur, but I do remember leaving his hospital room, and finding a secluded corner, I closed my eyes and prayed to a God, that I did not know; not for healing, but for mercy for my baby; I prayed that God would take him home so he would no longer be in pain. When I returned to his room, John Samson had passed on, and I knew that God had answered my prayer. In the following months and years, although God answered my prayer, I did not know who God really was, or where my baby went.

Life goes on, and I became pregnant again with our second child. John and I were advised by the doctors to have an abortion because the possibility of similar harm existed with this baby. John and I looked at each other, and by the grace of God, we both said absolutely not; and so, God blessed us with a beautiful, healthy baby girl in 1977.

Fast forward to 1980, the Lord blessed us with our fourth child Benjamin; it was during this time that Marty White and his friends, having been saved a few years, started coming over and witnessing to us about Jesus. Our response was yea, yea, yea, we know all about that stuff. So, when I was in the hospital with Ben, John decided to accept Jesus as his Saviour and he tried, the best he could, to tell me about Jesus; but I just would not have it.

I remember that there was a lot of arguing over such things, especially when it came time to baptize Ben. Knowing what happened to my first son, I wanted to know, this time, should anything happen to Ben, I wanted to know where he would go. That is where John put his foot down and said absolutely not. My response was I will show you in the Bible, where it is true, about baptizing babies. I had never read the Bible before, but I was determined to read it, if for no other reason than show my husband that he was wrong. So, I attended some home Bible studies with John and his friends. I even went to church a couple of times. It was at that time that I decided to hate Pastor Simpson; after all, it was his fault that my world was being turned upside down.

I was scared, frustrated, confused, I knew I really had to get a grip on all this stuff that was happening all around me; so finally, I turn to God, who I still did not know, and I asked Him to show me the truth; I cannot

(Continued on Page 5)

Testimony Time (Continued from Page 4)

figure this out without help. So, one Thursday night, during visitation, Trisha Bianchi came to visit me; during this visit, Trisha said a lot of things, but the one thing that I remember most was, "God is not wishy washy." Right then and there, the scales came off, and for the first time, I could see the truth. Finally, I had peace about where John Samson went when he died: I knew he was safe in the arms of Jesus. *"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."* (Luke 18:16) I no longer felt the burden of guilt that I carried about all those years. ***"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*** (Matthew 11:28)

I thank God for my husband, who, not knowing a lot about the Bible, stood his ground: if John had been "wishy washy," and just let me have my own way, and agreed to let Ben be baptized, there would have been no need to seek for the truth; and I never would have found Jesus.

John and I were blessed with three more children and have been blessed beyond measure through the years that followed. Jesus turned my angry, hard heart to Him; He gave me a love for Pastor & Mrs. Simpson and for the disciples from our little church in the city: I will forever be thankful.

Maureen (Moe) Klem



My sister and I were so blessed by this year's Missions Conference. We had such a good time and heard so many good sermons. It was very encouraging to see so many people who are faithfully serving our Lord. We learned a lot.

Brianna & Makenna Ernst

This year's, 2025 Missions Conference was phenomenal. I learned so much and talked to many wonderful people. My favorite preacher was Dale Morey. I would like to thank all of the preachers again and wish you God's speed in all of your ministries. ***Ava Mollinedo***

I really enjoyed the conference; It was good to connect and to talk with new people. I really enjoyed the messages that were preached, they were a real

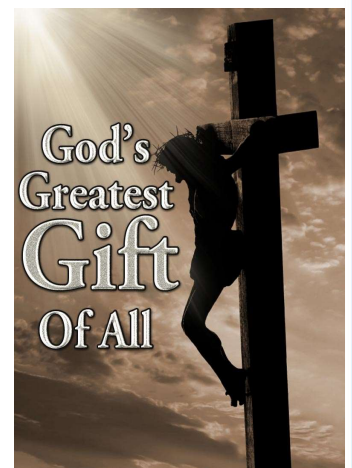
blessing to me. It was great to spend time with God's people. ***Emerson Dileo***

This year's Missions Conference was such a blessing. I am so thankful that all the Missionaries and their families arrived safely. Through their messages, we see how important it is to let your light shine and not to let it burn out. This gives rise to the convicting question - what are we living for - if not to tell others. Pastor Bianchi shared a passage from Matthew 5:13-14 *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."* We need to spread the salt.

Pastor Paul Scott reminded us of his journeys in Viet Nam and how he serves the truth there. He took us to Proverbs 23:23 "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." Dale Morey gave us some information on his ministry of teaching and Bible studies. Dale Morey preached a message about handing everyone the truth and how we can spread the gospel - which we should be doing. During Pastor Bianchi's last message, he preached about the Great Commission. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* (Matthew 28:19-20) We are sent out to teach all nations. I am so grateful for these messengers and their messages, that helped me gain more confidence in spreading the gospel and to dig into God's word more for instruction. It was truly an amazing experience to listen and talk to missionaries from around the world. I cannot wait for next year - Praise God. ❤️ ***Avery Dileo***

Ava's Verses

This month Ava's Verse is: ***"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*** (Romans 6:23)



The Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil..” (Genesis 2:9) ***“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*** (Genesis 3:6)

When you compare these two verses it becomes obvious that what the woman saw and what God actually made are similar, at face value, but they are different. Both verses say that the Tree of Knowledge was pleasant to the sight (or in Eve's case – to the eyes), and good for food; but the similarity ends there. Both verses do not say that the tree was to be desired to make one wise. Wisdom, we are told, comes from God, and not from a tree.

There is a vast difference between knowledge and wisdom. Without going into a long dissertation about the difference between knowledge and wisdom, let it suffice us to say: ***“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”*** (Proverbs 9:10) There is nothing wise about eating from a tree that God commanded you not to eat from.

That the tree was pleasant to the sight (eyes) and good for food, made the tree no different from any other tree in the garden. What made this tree stand out from all the other trees in the garden, was a perception. Eve perceived that the tree would make her wise, and that perception created within her a false desire. Eve's desire caused her to see something with her eyes that simply was not there. ***“Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.”*** (Proverbs 18:1) What Eve hoped to gain, by eating from that tree, was an illusion: an illusion produced in her mind by an ill-founded desire. Instead of gaining wisdom, the only thing Eve gained was a knowledge of evil: she already possessed knowledge of good; for only God is good. Jesus said, ***“Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:”*** (Matthew 19:17). Eve already enjoyed a personal relationship with (good) God. She desired wisdom, but what she received was a crash course in evil.

There is some controversy among Bible students as to whether or not Adam was with Eve when the serpent beguiled her. A careful reading of Genesis 3:6 quickly dispels any such controversy for it says, ***“... she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her...”*** The verse says that her husband was with her; and he did eat. ***“For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”*** (1 Timothy 2:3-4) Now we know that Eve ate because she was deceived, but the question remains, why did her husband eat? Well.... Her husband ate because he got tired of arguing with her. 😊

We find then, that desire is a by-product of “The Pride of Life.” Eve saw that the tree was a “tree to be desired to make one wise.” Pride always comes before the fall, and such was the case here. Eve desired to be wise apart from the counsel of God. She knew what God had commanded concerning the tree. She knew it, not perfectly, as a careful reading of Genesis 3:2-3 reveals, but she knew it well enough to simply say no. I am not saying that desire is a bad thing, but in Eve's case, her desire was grossly misplaced, and so God fixed that. ***“...and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”*** (Genesis 3:16)

We may apply the word of God here and conclude that in hearing, she heard not, and in seeing, she saw not but leaned upon her own understanding and made a decision based on personal desire. ***“Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:”*** (Matthew 13:13-14)



What Are We Teaching Our Children?

Why is the world sooo eager to teach our children the lie of Santa Claus? Christmas is NOT supposed to be about some old fat guy in red; it's SUPPOSED to be about Jesus Christ being born on earth! Santa is a lie and every parent and grandparent knows that. This lie teaches our children to accept a lie and to be okay with lying at a young age. Why do we willingly lie to our children like this? *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6) As a parent you have a grave duty to teach your children the truth, because what they are taught as a child will define their beliefs and influence their choices for the rest of their lives.

Originally Saint Nicholas was a 4TH century "CHRISTIAN" Bishop celebrated for his generosity and gift giving to those in need. However, like everything else, the world has twisted something that once may have been good, into something evil and perverted. *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* (Isaiah 5:20) Such as, the idea of little children sitting on a strange old man's lap, as being normal. This creates a sense of false security in children; they begin to believe it is okay; they become comfortable with strangers and accept gifts given to them by a stranger.

In the Bible, Jesus tells the little children to come to him. *"But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 19:14) Now, for anyone wishing to make the argument that little children sat on Jesus's lap, Jesus was believed by the people to be the Savior, our Deliverer, and the Son of God. Whereas Santa, is a man who plays dress-up every year: *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* (Hebrews 13:8) Why would we let our children sit in someone's lap that we do not even know; we have no idea what their intentions may be? *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."* (2 Timothy 3:13)

It is said, Santa knows whether you have been "bad or good;" given God-like qualities. This prompts our children to be good, not because it is right, but rather because Santa is watching and they might end up on the naughty list. Furthermore, is it not interesting that the world is always trying to be like God? Satan tried to be like God and look what happened to him! *"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the*

mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isaiah 14:13-15)

In addition, Santa is supposed to have supernatural magical powers, such as being able to fly a sleigh, and being "all knowing." In Deuteronomy 18:10-12, it talks about how much the Lord despises witchcraft, magic, and wizardry. Do not make something the Lord despises into something fun and enticing for your children. (Side note: Santa is Satan with the letters switched around!)

"Give me this, I want that:" want, want, want!!! That is what Christmas has digressed into. It is not about Jesus' birth, it is all about presents, possessions, and pleasure. Why would you want your children to idolize a made-up character that brings them presents? ***"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."*** (1 John 5:21) Christmas has become very commercialized and materialistic. Take the stores for example, they were DECKED with "everything Christmas" before October was over. *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Luke 12:34) *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."* (Matthew 6:19 -20) Why would we tell our children to make a list of things we covet to give to a fake person? Do we not teach our children to be covetous and very unthankful for what they have been blessed with. *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* (Romans 1:2) We should never take the Lord's blessings for granted. *"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 5:20)

"I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life no man cometh to the father but by me." (John 14:6) Your children NEED TRUTH, not lies! They need to DESIRE a love for truth (thanks Mr. Morrey). We can find truth both in Jesus, and in the PERFECT infallible Word of God. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* (John 1:1) So do not make Christmas about a man brewing with deception, perversion, and idolization. Teach your children about the ultimate gift that came down to the earth from heaven to die for our sins, the Son of God - Jesus Christ! *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans

Teaching Our Children (Continued on Page 8)

Teaching Our Children (Continued From Page 7)

6:23) Jesus truly is the “reason for the season.” Why would we make it about anything else? So, parents, please teach your children the Truth and not the lies of this world. Fulfill your duty as a parent, for the sake of your children, and for the Lord’s sake.

Thank you to everyone that read my article! I loved writing it, and I hope you enjoyed reading it! God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely, Ava

Life & Death Of A Democracy

According to Lord Tytler, a Scottish historian who died in 1813, the average life span of a Democracy is about 200 years. He concluded that after two hundred years, democracies collapse due to various economic policies and are followed by a dictatorship. Lord Tytler identified "Eight Stages of a Democracy," from the beginning to end as follows:

Bondage to Spiritual Faith
Spiritual Faith to Great Courage
Great Courage to Liberty
Liberty to Abundance
Abundance to Complacency
Complacency to Apathy
Apathy to Dependence
Dependence back to Bondage

Life and our universe moves in cycles; and history is no different. In our Democratic form of a Republic, which stage do you suppose we are in? Let us look at the underlying economic data. In the Media Circus that we call news coverage of our elections, which focuses on tweets and insults, our nation is \$38.3 trillion in debt. If you break that number down by population every individual in America owes \$112,500. In 2016 that number was \$55,000. It has more than doubled in 10 short years. We pay \$2.6 billion each and every day in interest on the national debt

After WWII, our national debt was \$269 billion. That was after we supposedly saved the world from evil. We reached our first trillion in debt in 1982, that was 43 years ago. In 2008 our national debt reached \$8 trillion, and in 2016 it reached \$19 trillion; since then, our debt has increased steadily, but recently we have seen a tremendous upward swing in spending which is out of control. If I ran a business the way our politicians run the government, I would have been out of business 40

years ago. So, the question is – should we be concerned?

Praise the Lord. I’m not concerned a bit. My wife called me a pessimist, saying I should be more optimistic like her. I told her that the definition of a pessimist is an optimist that is better informed. I looked behind the wizard’s curtain, and it was not pretty. I read **The Book** and I know how it will all end. Do not be surprised when this country falls economically; it is supposed to (read **The Book**). We have not been a Democracy since Eisenhower. We bought into the “New Deal” and now there is no backing out. We are in bondage to those who hold our debt and we don’t even know it. Every year we become more and more a Socialist country. It is all lining up for the One World Government (The New World Order). This country would never agree to join a one world government – but already we do not have a choice.

