

Trends

The marriage rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low. Right now it is sitting at a yearly rate of 6.8 marriages per 1000 people. In the United States today, more than half of all couples "move in together" before they get married. Not surprisingly, an all-time low 44% of all Americans in the 25 to 34-year-old age bracket are married at this point. And, overall, only 51% of all American adults are currently married. Back in 1960, 72% were married. For women under the age of 30 in the United States, more than half of all babies are being born out of wedlock, and approximately one out of every three children in the United States lives in a home without a father.

- via TheTruthWins.com

Hebrews 13:4: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous." (ESV)

Sentence Sermons

"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."
—Martin Luther

Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,"

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Her birthday is March 24th. She's an encouragement to all!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for the African appeal for funds to buy Bibles, songbooks and support faithful preachers' travel expense. Donate if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

My trip to the Philippines (April 7-May 5) has been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Lord willing, this will soon come to an end and the preaching training schools planned can be rescheduled. Please continue to pray for the furtherance of the gospel!

Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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"...he that endureth to the end shall be saved.."

Craig Thomas

We have been examining in detail what God requires of us to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Today we will consider the Lord's requirement that we live faithfully.

1) **"if" The biggest little word in the Bible.** In Colossians 1:21-23 the inspired apostle said, "...He has reconciled [you] in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight —if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel." Dear reader, our salvation not only depends on our initial obedience to God in becoming a Christian, but we must remain faithful! Note that Paul said Jesus will present us "holy, and blameless, and above reproach" to His heavenly Father "if indeed you continue in the faith." There are many passages in the New Testament that tell us we will be saved "if." 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 tells us we will be saved "if" we keep in memory the word preached to us. Hebrews 3:6 says we will be saved "if" we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." 1 John 1:7 says we will be saved "if" we walk in the light, as he is in the light." In John 8:31 Jesus said we will be saved "if" we continue in His word." No wonder that in Matthew 10:22, and other places, Jesus said "he that endureth to the end shall be saved." God has always required His people to remain faithful (Ezek. 18:24; Rev. 2:10)!

2) **It is possible to fall from grace and be lost!** Many religious groups teach that once a person becomes a Christian it is impossible for him to so sin as to be lost. Such a doctrine is in obvious contradiction with the Bible passages above. Also, the New Testament specifically states in Galatians 5:4 that some had "fallen from grace" and that Christ had "become of no effect" to them! Paul stated in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that concerning the faith there

would be “a falling away.” In 1 Timothy 4:1 that “some shall depart from the faith.” How much clearer could God’s word be? Hymanaeus and Alexander “made shipwreck” of their faith (1 Tim. 1:19-20); while the false teachings of Hymanaeus and Philetus had “overthrow[n] the faith of some” (2 Tim. 2:17-18). Paul also said lovers of money “have strayed from the faith” (1 Tim. 6:10).

To receive the “crown of life” we must keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:6-8). We must be ever careful not to cast away our confidence, nor “draw back” for God will have no pleasure in us (Heb. 10:35-39).

What are the Old and New Testaments?

Craig Thomas

There is a great need for people to understand the nature and character of the Old and New Testaments. A lack of instruction in this area has given way to a variety of false ideas regarding the subject. To further our understanding of the covenants God has had with His people, this study is dedicated.

1) **The basic meaning of the word testament or covenant is an “agreement.”** A covenant is an agreement or contract entered into between two parties. In a spiritual sense, it involves God and

“But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark — you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

—Genesis 6:18

man. From a legal standpoint, God is the party of the first part and man is the party of the second part. We see that in the case of Noah God made a covenant with only one man (Gen. 6:18). God said that if Noah would build the ark and “come into” it, He

would save Noah and his family from the flood waters.

2) **Understanding the three periods in Bible history are key to understanding the Old and New Testaments.** There are three main divisions of Bible history which are commonly referred to as the Patriarchal period (lasting from the days of Adam until Moses), the Mosaic period (lasting from Moses until Christ), and the Gospel period (began with Christ and will continue until His return). God dealt predominantly during the Patriarch period with only certain individuals such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This history is recorded in the Old Testament book of Genesis. During the Mosaic period God dealt specifically with the Jews. He made a covenant with them which Moses received at Mt. Horeb (Sinai) (Deut. 5:1-3). This covenant is commonly referred to as the old law or Law of Moses and is recorded especially in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Other Old Testament books (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles,

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther) record the history of the Jewish people under the Law of Moses. Today, God has made a covenant with all men. This covenant was dedicated by the blood of Christ (Mt. 26:28; Heb. 9:11-15), was enacted at His death upon the cross (Heb. 9:16-17), is “mediated” by Christ (Heb. 12:24) and is contained in the gospel of His son (Rom. 1:9, 16-17). The new covenant of Christ supercedes and replaces the Law of Moses (Heb. 7:12; 8:13). The new covenant is not limited to the Jews but enables men of all nations to be included in “the household of God” (Eph. 2:13-22, esp. v. 19).

Half-Hearted Christians

Larry Hafley

In reality, I suppose, there can be no such thing as a “half-hearted Christian,” for Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad” (Matt. 12:50). However, we often use the expression to describe those who would seek to serve the Lord on Sunday but live like the devil the rest of the week.

In the Old Testament, we read of their counterparts. Of the Samaritans it was said, “They feared the Lord, and served their own gods” (2 Kgs. 17:32, 33). Of Amaziah, king of Judah, it was said, “And he did that which right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart” (2 Chron. 25:2). Ultimately, both Amaziah and the Samaritans came to ruin.

Demas had been “called out of darkness into his marvelous light;” he had been “delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom” of Christ. Twice he is noted and named by Paul as one of his fellow laborers in the work of the gospel (Col. 4:14; Phile. 24). Yet, years later, near the end of his life, Paul says, “Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world” (2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). Was “half-heartedness” his problem?

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

—1 John 1:6-7

One cannot serve God and the world (Matt. 6:24). “Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether or sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness” (Rom. 6:16)?

And what of you, my brother? Be assured that you, like Amaziah, Demas, and others, will come to eternal misery if you keep one eye on the Lord and the other on the world. You cannot walk in the Lord while playing “footsie” with the devil (1 Jn. 1:6, 7).