

WHOLE WHEAT

The truth is simple...just simply not known.

A PUBLICATION FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

Are We Truly Civilized?

The world is full of great learning institutions. Colleges and institutions of higher learning are big business. Tuition is constantly on the rise and, in many cases, the cost is astronomical.

Yet, even with all this so-called "higher learning," we can't get along, like decent human beings. The divorce rate is higher than ever before. Crime is at an all-time high. Prisons are overflowing, with a pressing need for more to be built. As a result, hardened criminals are being released from the prisons back on to our streets. Insanity is on the rise. Moral standards have never been lower. Behavior that was considered immoral 40, or even 20 years ago, is now socially acceptable. Our politicians and leaders lie to us, without a second thought.

How can we have all these serious problems if our institutions of higher learning are so great? They have failed us and for good reason. Godlessness is taught in our colleges. Eastern religious customs, like yoga, meditation and mindfulness, are taught in our nursery schools, preschools, grade schools, high schools and colleges, among other things that do not agree with the word of God.

What does God in heaven say about higher learning or the so-called "wisdom" of this world? The wisdom and the knowledge of this world is foolishness before God (1 Cor. 3:19). God's word

says that the knowledge of this world is demonic (James 3:15). No wonder Jesus had no formal

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To learn more about the day drawing near check out our NEW! Book of Revelation feature here.

Listen to the audible version of this newsletter here.

***Text underlined in [blue](#) is a link to more information.**

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Are We Truly Civilized?

education (John 7:15)! All He needed was God's word.

Jeremiah understood that man was never created by God to direct his own steps or think his own thoughts, which are not good (Jer. 10:23; 16:12; Is. 45:19; 48:17; 65:2; Prov. 3:5-6; 14:12; 16:25; 20:24; Psalm 25:12-13; Deut. 12:8). We are missing the most important information we need for living a successful life, the greatest knowledge of all – from the greatest teacher of all time, Jesus Christ.

'True knowledge makes a people of honor, with wisdom, integrity and dignity.'

God created us all to keep His Ways and do His Will on this earth daily, as it is being done daily by God in heaven (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 10:12; Matt. 6:10). This is how we are to serve only Him (Matt. 4:10). This is what Christ came to show us. If we keep His Ways, then we will abound in prosperity (Prov. 28:9-11). True knowledge makes a people of honor, with wisdom, integrity and dignity. True knowledge comes only from God and makes a people who are civilized.

People could not be further away from their Maker than they are today. How many people do you know today who are living for God as Abraham, Joseph, King David, the Apostle Paul or Dorcas (Acts 9:36)?

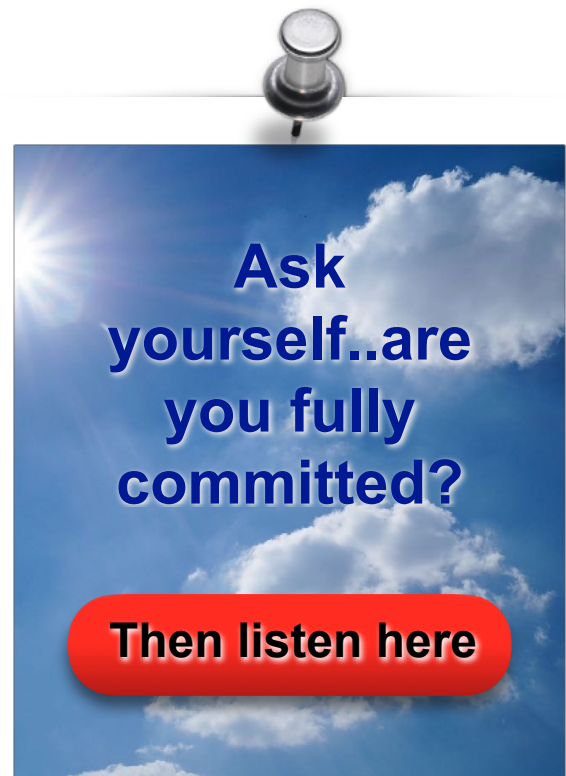
The Lord is coming very soon to forcefully civilize this world so full of sin. He will do this by eliminating the wicked from the earth, who are those who won't obey His word (1 Peter 4:18). If we are going to be judged by God's word, as the Bible says we will be, don't you think we should begin now to obey His word daily, so we will be spared when He comes with His wrath (John 12:47-50; Rev. 3:10; Luke 21:34-36)?

'Let's stop following the crowd and accepting what man says as

truth, when it doesn't agree with what God says.'

Let's begin to study our Bibles daily, to find out what God's Ways (Will) are, so that we no longer remain foolish (Eph. 5:17; Rom. 12:1-2; 6:13-19; 8:13; Gal. 5:16; Is. 2:3; Micah 4:2). Let's stop following the crowd and accepting what man says as truth, when it doesn't agree with what God says. God tells us to separate ourselves from the world. If we are a friend of the world we are an enemy of God (James 4:4). Find out what God expects of you and what He requires of you, so that you will no longer be one of the "crowd" but someone following after God's own heart.

Isn't it time to be truly civilized, by keeping God's Ways and turning from our wicked ways? Then God can bless us, as well as protect us, from what will shortly come to pass (Acts 3:26; Is. 3:10).□



How Stubborn Are We?



In the parable of the sower, the only persons who made the grade, when they heard the true message of the kingdom, where those whose seed was sown on good ground (Matt. 13:23). The good ground represents those with an honest and good heart (Luke 8:15). There are very few people with honest and good hearts and that is why many are called and few chosen. It is also why very few find the narrow Way (Matt. 7:14).

‘Overcome evil by doing good if you expect to abide forever. This is just what our evil nature does not want to hear.’

You cannot know the message of God, unless you live the message by being a daily doer of good. You must put into practice the truth, in order to come to the understanding of the light (John 3:21). You must be willing to do God’s Will, in order to know the teaching (John 7:17). You must live the message, in order to say you believe in Jesus Christ, then and only then will you never die (John 11:26). To believe in the Son is to obey the Son, and to obey the Son,

you must keep His sayings, do them and perform them (John 3:36; 8:51; 12:47-48; Luke 6:46).

The message of repentance is always the same. Overcome evil by doing good if you want to abide forever (Psalm 34:13-14; 37:27; Rom. 12:21; 1 Peter 3:10-11; Dan. 4:27; Is. 1:16-17; Zeph. 2:3). This is just what our evil nature does not want to hear. It wants to be told the message that says, do nothing and you will be saved (Titus 1:16).

When you hear this message, you are warned not to harden your heart by not starting to live it right away. The message of serving others, and doing good, becomes nothing more than a good intention to the many, but those few with honest and good hearts begin immediately so their hearts will not be hardened. A hardened criminal is one who is given every opportunity to change but doesn’t. His desire is to remain who he is and not be told what to do. A hardened prostitute is one who sees no wrong in what she is doing, for she has justified all her evil ways, in her own mind. She possibly sees herself as doing a great service for mankind.

‘God wishes that none should perish so he helps the disobedient to repent.’

What happens to those God has called, who have less than an honest and good heart? Are they doomed to be destroyed in the lake of fire? In Revelation 3:15, the Lord is disturbed by those who do not continue to worship Him with their whole heart by being zealous, or hot, for good works (Titus 2:14). These people had been greatly blessed by God, but then became lukewarm for good works for God’s glory (Matt. 5:16). This spiritual sickness happens to many (Rev. 2:5; 3:1-2). This is also what happened to the ancient Israelites when they had the same good news preached to them (Heb. 4:2).

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God wishes that none should perish, so he helps the disobedient to repent. God disciplines us for our own good (Heb. 12:10-11). In the very near future, He will bring many to repentance by bringing on the plagues of Revelation. He will make the sun seven times brighter, or hotter, to scorch men in order to force their evil natures to repent (Rev. 16:8-11). He will make hail, about 100 pounds in size, come down to get people's attention and help them repent. A worldwide earthquake will topple all the tall buildings in the cities of every nation (Rev. 16:18-19). Even Jerusalem will be split into three parts. However, people will continue to blaspheme God (Rev. 16:21). Remember, to blaspheme God, all you need to do is continue to live your old way of life and not change.

'They will have been given eyes to see by God because they have been obedient to His voice—the Bible.'

Everyone on this earth will wonder what's happening? But those who serve the Lord, by serving others, and live to please Him in all their ways will understand clearly what's happening. They have been given eyes to see, by God, because they have been obedient to His voice—the Bible (Rev. 17:8-9). They are the ones who have come out of religious confusion, religious Babylon, and they present their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, by the way they live. This is their spiritual service of worship to God (Rom. 12:1). They are continually helping those in need, which is pure religion, undefiled (James 1:27).

The Day of the Lord is not to be taken lightly (Zeph. 1:14-18; Is. 66:15-17). God wants us to return to Him so that He can return to us (Zech. 1:3-4; 7:10-12).

'Notice, the message of how to repent has never changed.'

Notice, the message of how to repent has never changed. Good works are necessary for repentance (Acts 26:20). This is the one message that caused the people to despise the prophets of old. These prophets were sent by God Himself, to instruct the people on how to repent and amend their ways, deeds and actions.

God has told us all along what is good and what He requires of us, but many refuse to listen (Micah 6:8). You'll never have trouble telling a boy scout to do good, but many in organized religion, who know in their hearts they are to do good, detest being told.

'God in His mercy will even save those who are lukewarm by testing them severely, if necessary.'

The word of God is clear that the majority of those God is calling in the last days will suffer greatly to be perfected by Him. All one needs to do is review these Scriptures: Revelation 6:11; 9:15; 13:7; 14:12-13; 18:24; 20:4; and 2:10.

God in His mercy will even save those who are lukewarm by testing them severely, if necessary. What a great and wonderful God we live to serve, one who cares more for us than we do for ourselves (Ezek. 33:31-33)! Hallelujah!□

Spiritual Cowards



In Revelation 21:8, God's word says the cowardly will be put in the lake of fire, which is the second death. This is where the Lord not only destroys your body but also your mortal soul. This is proof that your soul is not immortal. Many today think you suffer in hell eternally and never die. Matthew 10:28 settles that. What, then, is a spiritual coward?

'These people will not stand up for what is right, thus they deny Jesus Christ. They blind their eyes from seeing the truth so they do not have to obey Jesus Christ their Lord.'

God's word says that spiritual cowards are the ones who will not tell others the truth, for fear of being persecuted. What if Jesus had that attitude? These people will not stand up for what is right, thus they deny Jesus Christ. They blind their eyes from seeing the truth so they do not have to obey Jesus Christ their Lord. They could be those who live the message, but when persecution or temptation comes they fall away because they have no character or godly worth (Matt. 13:20-21).

'Spiritual cowards are those

who are stubborn and continue to hang on to their old ways, and don't turn from them.'

Spiritual cowards are those who are stubborn and continue to hang on to their old ways, and refuse to turn from them. They knew the truth for a long time, accepted and lived the truth, then stopped, thus becoming salt that has lost its taste (Matt. 5:13). They are the mockers, fault-finders, and excuse makers, who will perish along with Satan and his demonic angels (Jude 16). They know to do good, yet do it not—the goats. They will not discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness, and as a result produce no fruit on their spiritual tree (1 Tim. 4:7; Matt. 7:17; 3:10; Col. 1:10). They will not stop doing things in their lives that are displeasing to the Lord. They will not stand up for Jesus and His truth.

'Spiritual cowards are those who put doubt in the minds of others. Doubt leaves room so no permanent change has to be made in one's life for the good.'

Spiritual cowards are those who put doubt in the minds of others. The truth is something you can prove is correct by God's word. Doubt comes from man's wisdom. Man's wisdom is foolishness. It is made up of man-made traditions, ideas of men, interpretations of men, and false teachings by man that go against what God's word says. Doubt leaves room so no permanent change has to be made in one's life for the good (Mark 7:7; Titus 1:16).

A spiritual coward will not stand up for what is right and tell others, because it might destroy friendships or be bad for business. Now you know what a spiritual coward is.

In ancient Israel there were spiritual cowards too. The Lord told the Israelites not to practice the abominable customs of the pagans and thus defile themselves (Lev. 18:30; 20:23). God is

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adamant and means what He says when He shouts, "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2—KJV). We are not to serve Jesus Christ, and honor Him, by inquiring how the heathens worship their gods and then worshipping Jesus Christ with those pagan teachings and customs. It's as clear as that (Deut. 12:30)!

'We should not justify what we know is not pleasing to God.'

Allowing yourself to adopt the way of the heathen, in even the smallest of ways, is allowing room for Satan to come in to your life. Dabbling in organized religion, mixing with other's who say they believe in God but don't hold to His true gospel, dilutes your commitment to God. You are allowing room for confusion, making excuse in your life for what others do that, 'isn't so bad.' We are called to come out of organized religion and all that man has done to corrupt and confuse it. We should not justify what we know is not pleasing to God. We are to live by the word of God only, and seek for ourselves what is true according to His word. We are to convict and convince ourselves of that truth and hold fast, not allowing any room for Satan to dilute our faith.

A heathen is also someone who is rude, ignorant and cruel. It is someone who is inhuman; destitute of kindness and tenderness, someone unfeeling. That is the way of the world. God's word says, "Come out of her My people that you may not participate in her sins, and that you may not receive of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). We are to separate ourselves from the world, all of its attributes, false teachings and traditions of men. You are called out from the world when God reveals the truth of His word to you. You are to be different, and an example of godliness, not straying from the message and example that Christ came to show us.

Isn't it time we worshiped the Lord in Spirit and truth (John 4:23-24; Rom. 8:13), instead of continuing in religious lies and excuses? Isn't it

time for us to earnestly contend for the faith, which, was once and for all delivered to the saints of old (Jude 3)? This is that pure religion and is an attitude of being a full-time servant of others, as Jesus Christ our example was. It is learning to be righteous by practicing righteousness towards others daily. It is overcoming the evil pulls of our nature by continually doing good for others, and thus resisting Satan's pulls on our nature, as Jesus our example did. It is committing our minds, thoughts and actions to be pleasing to the Lord in all respects, not worshiping Him in vain (Mark 7:7; James 1:27).

This pure religion is continually walking in the Spirit (living to please God) so we don't carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). It is being spiritually aware at all times and spiritually discerning, as to what is good and wise, according to God's word, not making excuses for the flesh. It is fighting the good fight of faith by resisting evil daily for God. It is overcoming evil daily by doing good for the Lord, putting to death the deeds of the flesh by living for God (the Spirit). It is crucifying the flesh with its evil passions and desires (Gal. 5:24). It is overcoming our evil side by keeping Christ's deeds, words and sayings, and enduring to the end doing so. Thus, we are doing the Will of God only in our lives and we will live forever (1 John 2:17).

'With all the evil present in this world, it is no time to be a spiritual coward.'

With all the evil present in this world, it is no time to be a spiritual coward. This way of life is easy, enjoyable, rewarding, life-changing and exciting - when we don't complicate it. Seek the truth and you will find it, then stand up for what is right and do what is right in your life. God will surely bless you for being spiritually courageous.□

Letter From the Editor

Dear *Whole Wheat* Readers,

It is a basic human trait to only think the best of ourselves. Most people don't even see their own faults and shortcomings. And most of us hate to admit when we are wrong. The phrase, "Love is blind" speaks truth to most humans, when it comes to how they view themselves. We want to think we are civil, and surely we are never stubborn or cowardly.

I know because that was me before I knew this truth. On the surface, I acted as though I was a great person with wonderful qualities. Yet, deep down inside, I knew I wasn't. I kept fooling myself and others. I knew there was a dark side lurking in me. This is called human nature.

If we are honest with ourselves, we would all admit there is much room for improvement. Look at the condition of the world, its religions, governments and various organizations - they are all over the place. They are trying to improve the current status quo. If they are all doing this, then there is certainly an underlying awareness that the current situation is far from perfect. The shape of the world is a perfect example of it.

The founder of *Whole Wheat* warned me years ago, I would meet my true human nature as I became a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). I didn't understand what he meant until I started to put God's Ways into daily practice (Gal. 4:19). Boy was he right...I met my rebellious nature, in all its glory, when I put God's righteous Way of life into action in my life (1 Pet. 4:18).

It is imperative we serve God in a state and attitude of true godly humility, with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength - each and every day. We need to resist doing what we think is right, in the pride of our own heart and mind, and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God (Judges 17:6). He is opposed to the proud and gives grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5-6). Then we will see, like our lead article says, if we are truly civilized. In the process, we will also find out just how stubborn we are and if we are indeed spiritual cowards at heart.

Being a diligent doer of God's Word keeps us on the right track, and from deluding ourselves that what we think is right (James 1:22-25; Prov. 16:25). As we continually study, to show ourselves approved and stay true to God's Word, Scripture will tell us what is right. If we take the right course of action, as laid out in this issue, and continually remind ourselves of God's truth on wholewheatonline.com, we have the potential to become civilized, teachable and courageous for the Kingdom of God, as we see the day drawing near. Christ came to give us an example to follow and show us it was possible. Let's say goodbye to the old self and hello to the new self, so we will be worthy for the Kingdom of God (Matt. 10:38). There is no greater goal and reward, and it sure beats anything here on this earth!

In His Love,

Scott

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The Day Draws Near

Hebrews 10:25 says we should encourage one another, and all the more as we see the day drawing near. **How close is that day?**

One fact of the Bible is that 1,000 years represents one day in God's overall plan of redemption for mankind (2 Peter 3:8). Enoch, who is quoted in Jude 14-18 and in Hebrews 11:5, says in the Book of Enoch, "As the world was made in six days, so its history would be accomplished in 6,000 years; and this would be followed by 1,000 years of rest."

Man has been on this earth nearly 6,000 years since Adam was created (Companion Bible, Appendix 50, page 43). Following this 6,000 years, Jesus Christ will reign on this earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4). For He must reign until He has put all of His enemies under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25). But for now, He is allowing mankind to rule for 6,000 years, to show people that they do not know the way to peace (Rom. 3:17).

Jesus did not come to bring peace to the world, but a sword (Matt. 10:34; Luke 12:51). **The Lord is not slow about His return to this earth, but patient, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance** (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus described modern day Jerusalem surrounded by armies in the last days (Luke

21:20-22). He described a time that would take place in one generation (Luke 21:32-36). People will be saying, "Peace and safety!" Then destruction will come (1 Thess. 5:3).

We who are Christ's, who are sons of light and who have the true gospel, need not fear because God has not destined us for wrath (1 Thess. 5:4-11). God is going to spare us because we serve Him (Mal. 3:17-18). We will not go along with the beast who is coming, claiming to be the returned Christ, for we can know and understand prophecy (2 Thess. 2:2-13). God has given us understanding that we might know Him and the mystery of His will (Luke 24:45; 1 John 5:20; Eph. 1:9).

We know the world is passing away, but those who do the Will of God will abide forever (1 John 2:17; Matt. 7:21). How can you do God's Will on this earth as it is in heaven, if you don't even know what the Will of God is (Matt. 6:10)? So then, don't be foolish, but understand what the Will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17). **Prove what the Will of God is and renew your mind, so you will be good and acceptable and perfect before Him** (Rom. 12:2; Matt. 5:48).□



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