

Spring 2020

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. So through Christ we will surely be saved from God’s anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ’s death” (Romans 5:8, 9).

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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Law and Faith Work Together

By Paul Kelly



Higher Clips

When you enter a judge's room, what do you see upon the wall? Bookshelves filled with many law books dealing with civil and criminal laws! Can a judge know them all by heart? If there are no law books, will there be anyone who enters a court to face a charge for breaking a law? No laws mean a person will not pay any fines or face any jail time. Then there is no point for police to catch a person for

breaking a law because there is no law. Without laws, there will be no order but confusion in our society. We then will live in fear, hiding behind a locked door. Fortunately, we have laws to protect our society so that we can feel safe but not 100% due to the fact that Satan is out to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:12). Even while we have laws, we still have so many troubles around the

world. People are not able to totally obey them. They are born to sin. To have an everlasting peace and hope in the coming of Jesus Christ, I want to present you that our obedience to God's law is important and how our faith in Jesus can make it possible. Faith and obedience actually work together, and there is no conflict between them.

God's law has 10 commandments as listed in Exodus 20:1-17 (each of them can be found in both Old and New Testaments). Just TEN commandments as compared to many American laws that we cannot count! They are so simple that a child can memorize them all. Isn't it strange that they look so easy to follow and yet we keep failing to obey them from day one! Even Apostle Paul felt frustrated as he said in Romans 7:15, "For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (NKJV). Why can't we be able to perfectly follow them all every day? Paul pointed out in Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because all sinned" (NKJV). Once Adam and Eve sinned, all of the humans in the world have sinned. This

means that we all have the tendency to sin. That tendency to sin is a "disease" in all of us. If we simply break one commandment, we become guilty and are thrown in a prison of sin. Apostle James said in James 2:10, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all" (NKJV). No matter how hard we try to follow all of the ten commandments, we are still stuck in the prison of sin. This looks really hopeless for us all, but there is a solution.

Have you heard of a "lemon" car? It is a car that continues to have manufacturing defects (problems) causing it not to work right after trying to fix them several times. Even the car manufacturers have recalls on their certain cars because of the defects. Is God's law a "lemon" (not perfect)? Not so! David spoke positively about God's law as he said in Psalms 1:2, "But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night" (NKJV). Apostle Paul even said, "Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Actually, the problem is not with God's law but with us. We tried to follow God's law by our own

effort. Paul called this “works/deeds of law” which cannot make us right with God (Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16). God’s law only shows what sins are.

We must rely on our faith completely in Christ to help us obey God’s law. James stated the law was written by Christ “who is able to save...” (James 4:12, NKJV). Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life (Hebrews 4:15) and died upon the cross to save us from our sins. Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 3:13 that, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”).” We depend not on our imperfect righteousness but on Jesus’ righteousness given to us as a free gift from God so that we might receive eternal life (Romans 3:22-24; 28; 1 Peter 3:18; Philippians 3:9). His righteousness and His death upon the cross do in no way throw out God’s law.

Upon saying that we rely on our faith completely in Christ, this does not mean that we now can ignore or disobey God’s law. Apostle Paul emphasized that our faith does not throw out God’s law but that it is our faith in Christ that supports

His law (Romans 3:31). Jesus made this clear that if we love Him, we are to keep His commandments (John 14:15). He quoted this directly from the ten commandments listed in Exodus 20: 1-17, especially verse 6. Jesus knew that even though we love Him, we are weak to keep His law, He promised us the Holy Spirit to help us (John 14:16). Apostle Paul supported this clearly that the righteous requirement of the law can be followed by our dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit to help us (Romans 8:4). Peter added that “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life (2 Peter 1:3, NLT).

Our faith in Christ depends on our eager effort to “fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). That effort which is “obedience of faith” is the way of salvation. We cannot be saved by faith alone without obeying the law. In the same way, we cannot be saved by obeying the law alone without faith in Christ. Law and faith work together.

Paul Kelly is a Deaf lay-pastor for the Deaf and a teacher at Rochester School for the Deaf in Rochester, NY.

A Murderer on the Death Row

By Bob Plubell



Sydaev/istock

Have you ever experienced sitting on the death row? What a strange question! Can you imagine anyone ever wanting to experience the tragedy? Let me tell a story of a murderer.

Some time ago a man named Bill murdered his whole family consisting of a wife and two sons. Bill was caught and arrested. He was found guilty of murder by a trial jury, and given a death sentence. He was sent away to the prison.

The murderer found himself in the dark lonely place. The death sentence gave him no hope of getting out of the prison. Even he tried to change his life around, his punishment cannot be changed. So, he sees no point to change anything but to be hopeless and depressed.

One day the criminal lawyer came in to check on Bill, the murderer. Angrily and frustrated, Bill spoke to the lawyer about the unfairness of punishment all.

The lawyer comforted him through giving him an analogy (story picture) of the black dot. Some people tend to look at the tiny black dot on the whiteboard as if they look for the fault instead of looking at the bigger picture. The lawyer asked him whether he wanted to erase his own black dot. The murderer says there is no hope beyond the black dot. The punishment cannot be changed or even forgiven.

After a short pause, the lawyer offered Bill a hope. What does the hope offer to the murderer? A little hope of freedom from the death row. The only one qualified person can free a criminal like you. He must be a lawgiver. He must never commit crime in his life. How? The lawyer said, "You try to look through the small window watching for two men walking by the prison at 9 am. You will find something there."

Every morning at 8:45 a.m. Bill came to the window to watch for two men coming. He saw nothing but a blue sky with white clouds floating. He saw prison guards watching over us every day. He saw no men after a day, a week, a month. One day he finally saw two men walking toward the prison entrance. Two men

look like a father wrapping his arm around his son. A sight of love was shown. The murderer watched carefully. He was puzzled that the son would obey his own father and go to the prison even without any handcuffs. The prison guards led him inside the prison. The murderer yelled to the guards, "What crime did that man commit?" The guards said nothing. The murderer lost sight of the son as he entered the building. He was wondering while asking himself why a father let his own son go to the prison for no crime.

The murderer waited and waited for a little hope while thinking something strange about the son. Finally the son came to see the murderer. The murderer was shocked to see the son full of bruises and black eyes. What happened? The son responded that many prisoners did not want him. He asked the murderer gently whether he wanted freedom from the prison. For a moment he was shocked. The son says, "I am willing to take your place as I am qualified to free prisoners." The murderer made sure to ask him, "Do you mean you will die in the death row while I am going free?" The son answered with a humble nod. The murderer suddenly

cried, fell down and bowed before the son. The son lifted him up and taught him to experience real freedom.

The murderer came out of the prison at last. He saw the father of the son who took over the murderer's place. The father called the murderer his lost son to come live with me. What an amazing agape (love)! The

father does not remember his crime because the murderer did erase his own black dot by using the Faith eraser. It's real freedom. Living happily ever after, the murderer became a great adopted son to the father for the rest of his life.

Bob Plubell is a lay-pastor for the Deaf in Fresno, California.

The Christian and the Agnostic

By Unknown Author

An agnostic was speaking in a great hall. After he had finished his attack on Christianity, he said, "If there is a Christian here who would like to say a word in defense of the Christian religion, I give him the opportunity."

An old woman walked carefully to the platform, stood by the agnostic, and said, "Fifty years ago I was left a widow with three children. I didn't even have a penny, but I believed in Jesus as my Savior. I gave my life to His care. Now I am an old woman, but I have

managed by His help to raised all the children and educate them. Today all three are in positions of trust. That is what my religion has done for me. What has your agnosticism done for you?"

The agnostic replied: "Well, grandma, we won't discuss that tonight."

"But," she insisted, "you wanted to know what Christ Jesus could do, and I have told you that I am one Christian to whom He came in my need."

Adapted from Signs of the Times, April 10, 1934

Life from Death

By Arthur Griffith



Coltada/istock

Many years ago when people crossed the ocean they used wooden ships with sails. These ships were slow. These ships were sometimes in bad storms and sank.

One time a wooden ship was in a bad storm. One of the bottom plank of the ship

split. The water came rushing in the hole so fast the sailors could not keep the water pumped out. The ship began to sink. The ship was far from land and there were no other ships near. If the ship sank, the people would die.

Quickly, the captain called the sailors and told them what was happening. The hole in the ship was about the size of a man's arm. The captain told his men if one of them would dive into the water and put his arm into the hole, the ship would be saved. Who would go under the water? A fine young man stepped forward and said, "I will, sir." The captain stared at the young man with grief. The young man was the captain's son. They hugged and cried. Then the young man dived into the water and forced his arm into the hole. Now the pumps would keep the water from rising too fast. The ship did not sink. After several days, the boat reached land. All the people were saved because the captain's son had died for them. Imagine how broken-hearted the captain was! The captain was also very proud of his brave son!

This story helps us understand a little about Jesus. The same as the captain and his son. God the Father suffered when Jesus left heaven and came to our earth to live and die for us.

"But," you may say, "God is not the same as the sea captain. God is not helpless in a storm. God can stop sin and destroy evil men any

time. Why doesn't God destroy evil if He loves us?"

Well, friends. There are only two possible kinds of government. (1) by force and fear or (2) by the willing obedience of loyal people. If people have a good, kind leader and fair laws they will find peace, comfort and happiness. But if a government starts arresting and killing all the people who complain, more and more people get angry and afraid. Finally there may be a revolution or a war. We have seen this happen many times in past history. Usually the next government is not better. Sometimes the new government is worse than the government before it.

It is not possible to have a government without laws. God has laws called the Ten Commandments. God says when we disobey His laws, we sin. "The person who sins breaks God's law. Yes, sin is living against God's law" (1 John 3:4). So all of us have sinned. "Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death. This is why everyone must die—because everyone sinned" (Romans 5:12). The penalty of sin is death. "The payment for sin is death" (Romans 6:23). So how could God save us from final, eternal death without

destroying the law? The Bible answers. "But we see Jesus, who . . . suffered and died. And by God's grace, he died for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). As our Creator, Jesus was the only person who could die for everyone.

Does that mean that God will save everyone? No. God can only save people who love Jesus and who would be happy in Jesus' government, because the law is still there. How do we show our love for Jesus? Again the Bible answers in Jesus' own words, "If you love, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, NKJV). Are Jesus' commandments different than God's commandments? Of course not! Jesus said, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).

Love wins love. By dying for us, Jesus proved His love. "We love Him [Jesus] because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NKJV). Jesus loving us makes keeping Jesus' commandments a joy. We would hate to hurt Jesus

by not obeying one of His commandments.

How long do good people have to suffer because of crime, war, sickness, accidents and poverty? Not for long. The universe has seen what a mess sin has made of the world. The people of the other worlds where there is no sin will be loyal to God forever, and so will all the people of this earth who have chosen Jesus for their Savior and King.

Only one thing is left to happen. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness until all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14, NKJV).

That work is nearly finished. Then God will rescue His people and destroy everything that is evil. God promises, "Affliction will not rise up a second time" (Nahum 1:9, NKJV).

Late Pastor Arthur Griffith was the pastor for the Deaf in Portland, Oregon and Silver Spring, MD. Adapted from In This Sign, Winter 1986

How to Know God's Will

By Patricia Maxwell



SermonView

A friend of ours, the pastor of a large church on the East Coast, asked my husband to be his associate. We felt drawn to the new post, but because we enjoyed our present position, we hesitate, not knowing God's will for us in this matter. Finally, our pastor friend convinced us to come and take a look.

We flew to the East Coast for a weekend. When we arrived, the pastor and his wife took us to dinner at a Chinese restaurant. At the

end of the meal, we received the customary fortune cookies. As soon as I saw what mine said, I was shocked inside. Each of us read our fortune aloud except me. Finally, the pastor said, "Pat, what does your fortune cook say?" I paused, then reluctantly read, "you will soon change your present line of work."

Our friend roared with laughter, reaching across the table, and snatched the slip of paper from me. "You see," he said with evangelistic

fervor, “God is speaking to you through this fortune cookie! What more evidence do you need?”

I came home wondering, Does God speak through fortune cookies? How does a person know God’s will for his/her life? How am I supposed to know what He wants me to do? I have learned five ways to answer this question.

1. Accept Jesus

If I want to start knowing God’s will for my life, I must first become part of God’s family. Then I will know one thing for certain: I am saved!

But there is one that we often ignore. Jesus is not only our Savior, but He, also, is our Lord.

One day I visited a woman who wanted a better life. When I asked her to accept Jesus as her Savior and Lord she said, “I don’t want any man controlling my life.” Then she told me of a father who had left her. Of course, she was greatly mistaken to think that God was like her father or husband, but she said a viewpoint that a lot of us have: “I don’t want anybody controlling my life. I want to be in charge.”

However, Paul called himself “a servant of Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1). The

Greek word for servant can also mean a slave— someone who is totally under the control of his master.

Most of us don’t like that picture of the Christian life. We accept the idea that God saves us, but we are afraid to accept His will in our lives because we are not sure we want to do all the He might ask of us.

So, we try arguing with God: “You tell me first, Lord, what You want me to do; then I will decide if I want to do it.” Or we give a list of options to Him and ask Him to pick one or to choose the choice we have already made.

But surrender to God mean giving up ourselves to Him before we know what He wants. It means making ourselves open and available to His leading without any strings attached.

That kind of surrender requires trust, but how can I trust Someone I don’t know? The answer to that question brings me to the second way I have learned to know God’s will.

2. Bible Study

I learn to know God through the study of the Bible. I see how He cares about people, and I find the principles He wants me to follow.

As I am reading the Bible, I ask Him to show me what I need in my life. I am amazed at how the Bible helped me. I keep a pencil and notebook ready as I study so I can write down the thoughts, impressions, and promptings that come to me through Bible study.

One day in my Bible reading, I read about forgiveness. Immediately, a man and a happening popped into my head. I felt impressed to ask this man to forgive me for some angry words I had spoken. But I ignored the prompting with excuses—this is just an emotion of the moment. But the prompting remained with me for weeks, even months, until I finally did it and did what God instructed me to do in His Word.

3. Life's Experiences

God also speaks through events. I look back in my history and see where He has led me in the past. I find many examples that I know didn't "just happen." Then as I study my present situation, I may see doors of opportunity opening or others that are closing.

But what if I don't see anything happening? Does this mean God isn't leading? No! Sometimes I look for the big things and forget that

God wants me to do my best right where I am.

4. What I Do Best

Another way God speaks to me is through the gifts and talents He has given me. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 makes it clear that God gives skills for His service. So it makes sense that my abilities—the things I am good at—are another way to know what He wants me to do. It is not likely that God plans for me to be an artist if I can't draw! But what if I have so many talents that I don't know which one to focus on? Then, I could ask myself, Which of these choices will fill the greatest needs of the world and do the most good? As a Christians, I am not here just to satisfy myself, I am here to help and bless other people.

5. What I want!

But what if I have done all these things and I still can't choose between two or more choices? Then I believe God wants me to do what I want!

Where do we get the idea that God's will always involves doing something we don't want to do? Isn't it more reasonable to believe that God creates each of us with special abilities and interests so that we might enjoy life? We serve a God

who wants us to be happy, who desires the best for us. He is not trying to make us miserable.

When I realized this, I began looking back in my life and counting my blessings. I soon realize that I have had a happy life. I have experienced more good time than the bad time. Following God's will hasn't been difficult most of the time. It has been what I enjoy the most! This helps me trust Him more when faced with doing what I don't want to do.

So, the search that began with a fortune cookie has closed for me. I praised God who helped me personally,

intimately, according to my needs and my personality. He may not speak to me through fortune cookies, but He does speak in many other ways.

He led my husband and me to turn down the invitation to the large church on the East Coast. But we are happy knowing that God is directing our lives and will continue to do so. We have found that God wants us to know His will for us.

And that's a very satisfying way to live!

With permission by Patrick Matthew—Signs of the Times, May 2015

God Is Interested in Us

By C. L. Paddock

A night pharmacist in a modern drugstore tells an interesting story which should be of encouragement to Christians everywhere. This young man had had a busy evening, and at eleven o'clock when business seemed to be over for the day, he began to make preparations to lie down on the cot in the rear of the store, hoping to have a little sleep. The front door had been locked, some of the

lights put out, and he was just falling into a pleasant sleep and the night bell rang, and he jumped to his feet to serve the customer. It was an emergency call. The customer having been served, he relocked the door and again went to his bed. A half hour later another customer rang the bell, and an hour later he woke up by the bell again.

He was in a bad mood when he admitted a boy, who

put a prescription into his hands and asked that he prepare it as soon as possible. "Mother is very sick," the boy urged; "please put up my medicine quick."

We will let the pharmacist finish the story in his own words: "With sleepy eyes and bad mood I prepared the medicine, dismissed the boy, locked the door, and—was about to turn out the light, when I picked up the prescription to file it and, to my horror, discovered that I had made a serious mistake. A deadly poison was in that medicine.

"What should I do? Felt guilty with shame and self-accusation, I paced the floor. Had I known the boy, or where the family lived, I would have followed him, to prevent the use of the medicine; but I did not know where he came from. I knelt; with tears I confessed my sin of carelessness, and I begged God to forgive my sin and somehow to overrule my mistake. I knew not how this could possibly be, but continued on my knees. My prayer was more groaning in the spirit than anything else.

"My prayer was interrupted by the violent ringing of the bell. I opened the door, and there was the boy. 'Oh,' he said, 'I fell and broke the

bottle; please put up the medicine again.'

"I almost fainted for joy. Before I put up the medicine again I slipped into my little room, knelt, and said, with the tears streaming down my face, 'Lord Jesus, I thank You.' My prayer had been heard and answered."

As Christians we base our beliefs and hopes on the Bible, which assures us that God, our Father, is interested in all our problems—not some of our difficulties, some of our worries, but all our problems.

In Mark 11:24, we read, "So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you." In Matthew 7:11, we are reminded of God's willingness to help us, His children: "Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him! Perhaps we do not receive because we fail to ask. Maybe we do not ask because we do not believe."

Adapted from God Minutes (1990), page 55.

Superfood Kale

By Sue Radd

An Old World vegetable that has become very popular recently—is there anything kale can't do?

What is kale?

Kale is a dark-green, leafy vegetable that has a mild cabbage flavor. It comes from the family of health-promoting cruciferous vegetables. Kale comes in several kinds, including curly kale, Tuscan kale (also known as dinosaur kale), and red Russian kale.

Why is it good for you?

Studies show that kale contains anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, and cholesterol-lowering nutrients. For example, in a study of Chinese women, those who ate cruciferous vegetables daily had a 50 percent lower risk of breast cancer!

Research on European women found that eating just one weekly meal with cruciferous vegetables was linked to a 17 percent reduced risk of breast cancer. And breast cancer survivors who regularly enjoy kale and its cousin vegetables (such as broccoli, cauliflower, arugula, watercress, and radish) are known to have a lower risk of their cancer coming back again.

Kale is filled with nutrients such as vitamins A, K, and C; folate; dietary fiber; and

minerals such as calcium and iron. Vegetables from the cruciferous family are an important dietary source of sulfur-containing phytonutrients that powerfully stimulate the liver's cleaning mechanism.

How to use it

To get maximum benefit from kale, you need to chop, chew, blend, or juice it. Be sure to include some raw or only lightly steamed kale.

Kale's bitter taste is reduced by the addition of extra virgin olive oil.

Use raw kale in smoothies and to make pesto and salads (for salads, remove the ribs first, cut in strips, and massage to soften).

Bake kale chips with extra virgin olive oil.

Steam kale, and add it to burritos and risottos.

Sauté kale, and stir into cooked beans.

Stir-fry kale with other vegetables.

Kale also freezes well, resulting in a sweeter taste when it thaws. Simply chop leftovers into one-inch ribbons and place them in a bag in the freezer. They are perfect for adding to soups!

*Dr. Sue Radd, PhD is the award-winning author of *The Breakfast Book* and coauthor of *Eat to Live*.*

Vegetarian Recipe

Minestrone Soup



Andrey Zhuravlev/stock

- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium minced onion
- 1 tsp sweet Basil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp Parsley

Cook in a large kettle until soft. Then add:

- 3 cups canned or fresh tomatoes
- 2 diced large carrots
- 2 stalk diced large celery
- 2 medium sized potatoes, diced
- 1 box of macaroni (wheat or Gluten Free) Be sure you cook until the macaroni is tender.

Add:

chili or pepper in it for flavor. Or you can add 1 jalapeño (finely diced)

Soup includes salad and Bruschetta toasts or pita with avocado and sprouted alfalfa.

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