

STUDY THE WORD

Joe Wright Griggs

"In the Beginning was the Word!"
The Living Word of God.
It is a sharp two-edged Sword,
God's own Divining Rod!

We use this Weapon with great care -
It is the Word of Life!
Both sin and error are laid bare
By God's Dissecting Knife!

To learn, *we dare not be remiss,*
We let God's Spirit lead.
For if our teaching is amiss
We sow a deadly seed!

"Study to show yourselves approved,"
The Word, itself, exhorts!
From all distractions we're removed
To feed our minds and hearts.

We have *to prioritize our time,*
Make His Word *number One,*
If in God's Vineyard we would shine
And hear Him say: "Well Done!"

My Mother used to inscribe this message in every Bible she gave away:
"The Bible is God's Holy Word! This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book. Read it to be Wise, Believe it to be Safe, and Practice it to be Holy! It contains Light to direct you, Food to support you, and Comfort to cheer you. It should Fill the memory, Rule the heart, and Guide the feet. Read it Slowly, Frequently, and Prayerfully." Let us make these words our guide in our Daily Bible Study!

The Apostle Paul admonished young Timothy, as follows:
"Study to show yourself approved unto God..."
II Timothy 2:15 from The King James Version of the Bible

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

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Who is this Man of Great Sorrows?
He's the Christ of Jews tomorrows!
(Yet, by them, He was rejected-
By "believers," was neglected!)

Why by mankind was He despised?
We turned away ... He was chastised!
At His torture we were repelled -
By His silence, we then rebelled!

Why didn't He state His defense?
His Life Spoke, but He shunned pretense!
The multitudes had heard Him talk -
Saw lepers healed, saw cripples walk.

Why was our sin all placed on Him?
Since God did not want to condemn -
His Son, the Only Innocent
As Sacrificial Lamb was sent!

Why was His death made necessary?
A Just Intermediary
Must pay in full the price for sin!
(No other way to bring us in.)

What is the song that we should sing?
"You are worthy, our Lord and King!
You have redeemed us by Your Blood -
We're reconciled with Father God!"

The great Prophet Isaiah wrote approximately 750 years Before Christ:
"But He was *wounded for our transgressions*, He was bruised for our
iniquities " Isaiah 53:5 from The New King James Bible

The Apostle John wrote from his great Vision on the Isle of Patmos:
"You are worthy .•• *for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by*
Your Blood " The Revelation 5:9 from The New King James Bible

SYMBOLS OF THE TRINITY

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*The Symbols of The Trinity
(Three Personalities in One) -
Are cultural to help folks see
And fully grasp what God has done!*

*The three-leaves of the Shamrock aid
Irish Christians to understand -
How God's Trinity had prepaid
Sin's lethal cost - God's reprimand!*

*The three-leafed clover is likewise
Used to show God's "Three in One"-
With the clover, one can surmise -
The Father, Spirit, and The Son!*

*The triangle is oft employed
To teaching God's Great Trinity-
Each corner's name fills in a void
The Whole - God's Divine Unity!*

There may be other symbols then
The three identified above -
These will suffice to show again -
That God is One and God is Love!

In closing his second letter to the Church at Corinth, the
apostle Paul refers to each member of the Godhead:
*"The Grace of The Lord Jesus Christ, and The Love of God,
And the Communion of The Holy Ghost be with you **all**. Amen!"*

II Corinthians 13:13 from The King James Bible

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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The "Thou Shalt Nots" of Moses' Law
Defines our limit, shows our flaw.
Each of us is shown as sinner -
An are sick (there is no winner)!

The Law thus makes it very clear-
(To eyes that see and ears that hear) -
The Law is diagnostician -
It's neither cure nor physician!

Not one of Adam's Fallen Race
Has kept The Law (to our disgrace) -
So God Himself devised The Plan
The only way for sin-cursed Man!

The Sacrificial Lamb must be
By God's Own Law completely free
From sin and stain, *thus Only One*
Could qualify: He was God's Son!

Jesus was sent to earth to die
For mankind's sin - and stem the lie
That there was any other "out"
For mankind - *He erased all doubt!*

The Only One Who kept The Law
Thus paid Full Price for our great flaw -
His Grace and Love demands belief
From each of us – for sins' relief!

The Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas:
" Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said: *Believe on the*
Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house. "
Acts 16:30-31 from The King James Bible

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY

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**New "reader polls" now indicate
That many church-goers believed
That other ways to arbitrate
One's salvation, can be achieved!**

*Jesus made clear: "I Am The Way -
The Truth and Life!" (Can we not see)?
He forcefully tried to convey -
There is no other way, but Me!*

**False religions have always taught
Salvation is "By works of man:"
(Keep all The Law by deed and thought),
(Haji to Mecca if you can)!**

**Many persons buy into this -
"I am the master of my fate!"
*Alas, they have been led amiss -
All mankind's in a fallen state!***

*In Love and Grace, God made The Way -
The Only Way of Salvation!
What awful cost, Christ had to pay
To atone for sin's perversion!*

**At the Last Supper with His Disciples, Jesus answered the
question Thomas asked: "... How can we know The Way?"
Jesus said unto him, (Thomas): "*I Am The Way, The Truth, and
The Life: No man (person) comes to The Father, But By Me!*"**

John 14:6 from The King James Bible

THINK ON THESE THINGS

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Our minds contain many a channel -
(Like the TV's we have at home).
We choose the thoughts on which to dwell -
And let the others elsewhere roam.

Negative thoughts about oneself?
Means that it's channel switching time!
Keep negative thoughts off our shelf -
Let all our thought-life be sublime!

Our personal rating systems
Should help control our thoughts and minds!
Uplifting thoughts are like great gems -
Negative thoughts like bad fruit rinds!

The Apostle Paul has written:
Where there is praise ... "Think on these things!"
Let us center our thought-life then -
That with God's Praises our heart sings!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Philippi:
"Finally, brothers, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever
things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever
things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever
things are of good report; *if there be any virtue, and if there be
any praise, think on these things!"*

Philippians 4:8 from The King James Bible

The wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, wrote:
"Eat not the bread of him that has an evil eye ... *For as he
thinks in his heart, so is he ...* "

Proverbs 23:6-7 from The King James Bible

THE TRUE COMPLETED JEW

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*All Messianic prophecies
Came true two thousand years ago!
But Jesus' teachings failed to please
The Jews who didn't want to know!*

Jesus was born where Micah said - (Micah 5:2)
From a virgin! (Isaiah wrote)- (Isaiah 7: 14)
For mankind's sins He grieved and bled- (Isaiah 53:5)
(This gave his foes a chance to gloat)! (Luke 23:35)

*The really True Completed Jew
Knows Jesus is The Messiah -
For reading through Scriptures anew -
Should make that clear to all Judah!*

Christianity is actually
An Addendum to Jewish Beliefs!
*For Jesus' Life is factually -
God's answer to all sins and griefs!*

God Blessed all nations through Isr' el!
Through Them He sent His Son to die
As Sacrificial Lamb to tell
"Forgiveness for all sin is nigh!"

Arguably Israel's greatest prophet, Isaiah, wrote:
.....He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter ...He was cut off out
of the land of the living ... He had done no violence, neither was any
deceit in His mouth...Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him ...by His
knowledge shall My Righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear
their iniquities..." Isaiah 53:7-11 from The King James Bible

UPCOMING BIBLICAL EVENTS

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*"Christ's Ascension" into the Sky
Has caused many to question: "Why?"
Yet, His Great Task on earth was done ..
The Father longed to see His Son!*

*"The Rapture of the Church" comes next
(If we correctly read The Text) -
In Heaven's Glory, at His Side
The Church will Wed as Jesus' Bride!*

*"The Second Coming" then will be
Presented for the world to see!
Here Christ will reign one thousand years:
In "God's Kingdom, " freed from all fears!*

*"Eternity" will start at last -
From Christ's Great Throne the die is cast!
Jesus will Judge, both True and Fair -
Alive and dead, All will be there!*

*Many will stand before Christ's Throne -
False claims of faith and service shown.
But since His Judgment must be True -
He'll have to say: "I don't know you!"*

*But all "The Faithful" will go in -
Declared as righteous, freed from sin.
For they have truly made Him Lord -
Believed in Him, Obeyed His Word!*

In His "Parable of the Talents," Jesus declared:
*The Master said to the Faithful Servants as follows: "Well done, thou
Good and Faithful Servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I
will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou Into the Joy of thy
Lord ... " Matthew 25:21- 23 from The King James Bible*

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

Part 1 of 2
Joe Wright Griggs

There is a Kingdom Upside Down
Wherein the meek shall wear a crown.
Where riches, power, and fame are cursed-
The first are last, The last are first!

All those who mourn, those poor and weak,
And for God's Righteousness do seek-
The Peaceful Ones, those Pure in Heart-
Shall of this Kingdom have a part!

The answers which I want to know -
*How can this Kingdom hope to grow
When all the world is filled with sin?
How can I hope to enter in?*

The Prodigal had found *The Way!*
To his own Father he would say:
*"Because of sin, I have no plea,
As slave, not son, I come to Thee!"*

*By Grace, the Father's Love was great!
"My son's returned, let's celebrate!"
A feast was planned, the son was dressed
As would befit an honored guest.*

Alas, the elder son defied
His Father's plea to come inside-
*"Although I've worked most faithfully,
You favor that son over me!"*

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

Part 2 of 2

Joe Wright Griggs

And I, like him, the elder son
Am prone to trust the works I've done,
And say to God: "*Why do you give
That Prodigal a chance to live?*"

And then, in Love, He let's me see:
The Prodigal is really me!
*And if The Kingdom I would claim,
I'll have to come in Jesus' Name!*

For in That Kingdom, I have found -
My values are all changed around -
*As Prodigal, I too must be -
Willing to come without one plea!*

(While eating in the house of a chief Pharisee
Jesus told the parable of "The Prodigal Son ") -
Luke 15:11-32

THE BEATTITUDES: *Attitudes of Being in Kingdom Living!*
*The Kingdom of God is truly an "Upside Down Kingdom" as
compared to the attitudes and values of the world's kingdoms -
Here are some examples:*

*The world values popularity, power and prestige -
The Kingdom of God. Blesses the meek and humble!*

*The world tries to settle differences by warfare -
Peacemakers are Blessed in The Kingdom of God!*

*Greed and Pleasure are often goals in the world's kingdoms -
Being merciful and righteous are Blessed in God's Kingdom!*

*"The Beatitudes" were the central theme of
Jesus' Teachings in His most notable sermon:
"The Sermon on the Mount:" Matthew 5:3-12!*