



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 7

January 12, 2019

No. 2

A Mixed-Up World

by Frank Jamerson

Human wisdom has rejected the Bible as the word of God and has decided that man evolved from lower animals, therefore they do not want to kill animals, but many of the same people have no respect for human life, therefore advocate unrestricted abortion. It is really a mixed up world!

Some do not want to wear any article of clothing made of fur, or any other kind of animal products, use animals for research or eat meat. According to the doctrine of reincarnation, they may be harming a relative!

What does the Bible say about this? First, if it is a sin to wear animal skins, then God sinned in the garden of Eden, when he "made tunics of skin" and clothed Adam and Eve (**Gen. 3:21**). When Noah came out of the ark, God said "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with the life, that is, the blood" (**Gen. 9:2,3**). God did not know that it was "cruelty to animals" to eat meat. Paul said that one doctrine of those who departed from the truth would be "commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (**1 Tim. 4:4,5**).

John Clayton commented: "Is nature cruel? Do animals possess a sense of self that makes death a personal tragedy? The evidence suggests that the answer is No! The fact that males will frequently kill their own offspring and that many forms of life will eat a member of their group that has died suggests that there are other forces at work. Predation (preying on other animals) is not a wanton and cruel act..."

"If we recognize that living things are not unevolved men but products of a design which ensures survival of the species and are programmed to fit the design, we will be better equipped to manage our world and also will be able to understand acts in nature that many interpret as blatant unwarranted cruelty" (Does God Exist? Sept/Oct, 1990).

The theory of evolution and the Eastern religion's doctrine of reincarnation have influenced us more than most may realize. When men reject God's revelation, they get values confused and even reversed. In short, if vegetarianism is mandatory, the Bible is false!

God Requires Holiness

Matt Thompson

The praises given to God in Revelation 4:8 clearly state that God is holy. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" We find no difficulty in acknowledging and accepting the holiness of our God, yet there are times where we fail to understand the implications of His holiness for us as Christians.

As God, through Moses, was teaching the Israelites what He required in their worship, He explains an important principle that has implications for Christians today. In Leviticus 19:2 God tells Moses, "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'" God explains that His holiness REQUIRES holiness from His people. He goes on in Leviticus 20:26 to say, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine."

God's people must understand that in order to worship God in the way that pleases Him, we must present ourselves in the holy way that He requires. Let us consider three ways that we, as Christians, must present ourselves Holy.

Put God's commands before our wants. To be holy means to be dedicated to God for His purpose. We must remember that God's purpose is more important than any of our personal desires. When we come to worship God our focus must be on Him. As hard as it is sometimes, the cares of this world must fade to the background and God must be front and center in our mind in order for us to be Holy in the way He requires.

Our worship should come from a blameless heart. Every one of us sins. Yet our approach to God should be with repentance in our heart asking him for forgiveness so that our worship of Him can be blameless. We cannot be Holy in the way that God requires when we have sin in our lives. Paul, referring to Jesus, writes in Col. 1:22, "He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him." Holy and blameless are inseparable characteristics.

Be ready for God to use us as He sees fit. 2 Timothy 2:21 states, "Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work." To be holy means to be ready for the work that God wants us to do; whatever and wherever that is.

Ultimately, our holiness is much more than a choice, it is a responsibility. We are responsible for being holy because our God is holy. Let us come before God in the way He says, not in the way we think is right.

Micah 6:6-8: "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Value of People

In our study of the lessons from Jesus, we find that He would eat with sinners and tax collectors. (Luke 15:1) The soul of one person is so valuable. In Luke 15:7 we learn that there is "joy in heaven over **ONE** (emphasis mine sdc) sinner who repents" If our Lord Jesus teaches us that there is great value in people, we need to lift up eyes and look into the fields (John 4:35) for those with whom we can share the news of Jesus, He can save! (Luke 19:10) Stacy Crim