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*...call out for insight
and cry aloud
for understanding...*

Proverbs 2:3

NIV

It's been said, "The proof of desire is in the pursuit." Christians in today's society often fall short of showing God their desire for Him. According to The Barna Research Group, commitment to living the Christian life is inconsistent at best. "More than half of those who attend a Christian church (54%) say that they are absolutely committed to the Christian faith, and another 37% say that they are moderately committed" (2006). "Among born again Christians, two-thirds (66%) say they are 'absolutely committed' to the Christian faith" (2006), and 97% of Evangelicals say they are absolutely committed to Christianity (2006).

As the body of Christ we need to be fully committed to the One who died for us.

We need to have the same desire as David did when he declared in Psalms 27:4, "One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple." In Corey Russell's book Pursuit of the Holy, he examines Proverbs 2:1-5. Russell states that the key to the pursuit of God is being fascinated with Him. A lifestyle of fascination starts with receiving and valuing His word and inclining our hearts and lifting our voices for understanding. I encourage you all to read Revelation chapter four and to live a lifestyle of fascination.

Imprecatory Prayers Part 2 By Jack Gonzales

Think about it, "Will God hear your prayer to harm someone else?" This is a tough question, but think about it like this: Did God hear David when he prayed to God through the Psalms to harm his enemies? David is known as a man after God's own heart and yet he prayed an imprecatory prayer against his enemy.

Does this make it okay for such things to be offered up to God? Well brothers and sisters just know this, we are not perfect and sometimes we find ourselves all beat up and frustrated like David. There are times when we just need to vent. One argument is that an imprecatory prayer can be just that, a great way just to vent to God. However, as Christians we must realize that our words and our prayers do have power. Venting is a good

thing, but imprecatory prayers could be a dangerous thing.

Venting is a healthy way for us to let go and give things to God. Just let God know how you're feeling. Let Him know how you feel about others, and ask Him to help you, to give you strength and to help you become a better servant in His kingdom. After all, that's what we are, His servants, His children, His people. We are His!

So, the next time you're frustrated, make yourself slow down and just let everything out to God. Don't ever feel like, "I have to get myself calmed down, and then I can talk to God." He wants a relationship with you that goes beyond just the times when you're feeling good. He wants to be there for you all the time.

By Man His Blood Be Shed

By Andrew Johnson

The issue of capital punishment is one that even divides Christians. This is understandable. After all, if Christ has already paid the ultimate death penalty, why would we subject anyone to capital punishment? This dilemma is compounded when we consider those on death row who have a genuine conversion experience. If they've truly received God's forgiveness, should they not go free?

Before we consider liberation, let's look at capital punishment itself. It should be noted that God decreed capital punishment, not man. God told Noah, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image" (Gen. 9:6 ESV). It was God's decree that the shedding of innocent blood warrants the killing of the offender. This sentence, however, is not to be carried out by just

anyone. We must not take justice into our own hands. Paul affirms that it is the place of governing authorities to carry out God's decree. Such an authority is "the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom. 13:4 ESV).

What if this "wrongdoer" becomes a Christian as he awaits execution? What about forgiveness? Indeed, should the victim of our offender be someone close to us, we must extend forgiveness. No less will God forgive him if he comes to faith in Christ. Should he not then go free? Forgiveness does not guarantee freedom from consequences. Here is wisdom from Paul: "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him...Each one should remain in the condition in . .

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Christ or Antichrist?

By Liza Turner

[Revisit of a Chronicles' article from February 26, 2007]

I recently viewed a rerun of "ABC News Primetime." The story was originally written, March 6, 2007, by Jim Avila, and called, "Jesus of Suburbia—Has He Risen Again in Houston, Texas?" The subtitle is "Jose de Jesus Drinks, Smokes and Claims He's the Second Coming." The story began talking about people lining the streets outside a tattoo parlor in Miami Beach to get "666" tattooed on their bodies. They were said to be "smiling through their pain."

They don't claim to be devil worshippers, but Christians. The big difference between them and Christian believers is that the Jesus they follow is a man who lives in Houston, Texas. His legal name is Jose de Jesus Miranda, he is 60-years-old, and originally from Puerto Rico. He claims to have followers in 30 countries, and it has been said that his followers equal more than a million. He claims to be "Jesus Christ, man, the second coming of Christ." He realizes that he offends many Christians by calling himself Jesus.

To show their loyalty to their Jesus/Antichrist they are tattooing "666" on their bodies. One of the people interviewed said, "I just want to make sure it's visible, that everyone knows my life belongs to the Man," another said, "I want everyone to know I'm one of the

antichrists." This man claims to be the Second Coming of Jesus, an "incarnation of Jesus on earth," as well as the Antichrist. He claims that Antichrist is not an evil being, but [in a twisted sort of logic] the result of Christ's death on the cross eliminating sin. This is how he justifies his sinful behavior by saying that sin is done away with, rather than the truth we know: that Christ's death paid the price for our sin, to keep those whom accept and believe in him will not face the ultimate punishment of eternity in Hell.

Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. Matt. 24:23 ESV

I don't know about you but I'm still trying to figure how one can be Christ and Antichrist. Mr. Miranda does not offend me personally he just makes me laugh. What is offensive is that God's precious children are being led away from the truth. As this story unfolds in the next couple of weeks we will realize that it is nothing new, this kind of hypocrisy has existed since the beginning.

Capital Punishment ...continued from page 2

Tell us what your opinion is on the Death Penalty.

...which he was called" (1 Cor. 7:17, 20 ESV). That is, what happens to our offender is in God's hands and we must leave it there. If a man is "called" while on death row, he should remain there unless, by God's providence, he is released.

There is concern that some on death row are actually innocent, and there are certainly people who experience true conversion. Granted, those are tragic situations. It is an unfortunate fact that there are those in that situation who are guilty and

have no remorse for their wrongdoing. God has made the decree that such people should be put to death. God takes no pleasure from it, nor should we; nonetheless, it is one case where ending a life is the just thing to do.

In the next article of this series, we will consider war and its fatalities.

Food for Thought:

Who are you in God?

By Angelica Morgan

This quarter, I have a class called Self-Concept. This is a class that really helps you learn about who you are in Christ Jesus. Many people have insecurities that are hard to face; insecurities that follow them throughout their lives. Many think that they are not worth being called a Daughter or Son of God because of the mistakes they have made. While this message is aimed more toward Women; however, it is food for thought for men as well.

Women, we have a purpose in this world as it states in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (NIV) Don't let what others say or do get the best of you. It is Jesus you will stand before on judgment day, not man. Your inner beauty is what God desires not your outer beauty.

Beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

1 Peter 3:3-4
NIV

This excerpt from a poem, is a reflection of what God has to say:

You are my perfect angel. You are my beautiful little girl. You have grown to be splendid woman of excellence, and my eyes fill when I see the virtue in your heart. Your eyes- don't change them. You're lips- how lovely they are when they part in prayer. Your nose, so perfect in form. Your hands- so gentle in touch. I've caressed your face in your deepest sleep; I've held your heart so close to mine. Of all that lives and breathes, you are most like me. Adam walked with me in the cool of the day, and yet he was lonely. He could not see me or touch me. He could only feel me. So everything I wanted Adam to share or experience with me, I fashioned in you: My holiness, my strength, my purity, my love, my protection and support.

You are special because you are an extension of me. Man represents my image. Woman, My emotions. Together you represent the totality of God.

So, Man, treat Woman well. Love her, respect her, for she is fragile. In hurting her, you hurt me. What you do to her, you do to me. In crushing her, you damage your own heart, the heart of your Father and the heart of her Father.

Woman, support Man. In humility, show him the power of emotion I have given you. In gentle quietness, show your strength. In love, show him that you are the rib that protects his inner self.

-Author Unknown-

Pollution: The International Effects

By Myung Hee Bae

Over the last few decades, the concern about environmental pollution has increased considerably. The efforts to solve the matter, internationally as well as individually, have been gradually progressing. In my opinion, despite the necessity of international actions to settle the pollution issues, individual or local attention on this matter is more important.

There are two main reasons why international efforts should be focused on environmental pollution. Pollution in one country has an immediate influence on its neighboring countries. The yellow dust storm is a good example. It originates from some deserts in China but causes respiratory diseases to people in Korea and Japan as well. This is why the three governments are cooperating to settle this issue together. Moreover, some phenomena, such as destruction of the ozone layer and globe warming, are not limited to a single nation.

On the other hand, the roles of individuals, or of each government, should play as important a part as those on the international level. According to some recent reports, the largest portions of water pollutants come from household waste. In addition, detergents or shampoos that are used in our daily life are one of the main threats to the earth's ecosystem. Government regulation over factories, which discharge water waste into the ocean or dump industrial waste without any treatment, can contribute a lot to protecting the environment.

Dear Students, Friends and Colleagues,

Regent University is conducting a study on how Christians are using the website "YouTube." If you are interested, please take the time to click on the link below and complete the survey. They want to receive responses from all over the U.S. The survey is being led by Dr. William J. Brown, Professor and Research Fellow, School of Communication & the Arts, Regent University.

The link for e-mail invitations is:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=whPMUsMR6oB_2b123tM_2bAmdA_3d_3d

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In short, environmental pollution needs to be managed in collaboration with all countries. However, there are changes that should be made by individuals, as well as local governments. As individuals, here are a few places you can start being more environmental friendly. Recycle paper, glass and plastic. Use rechargeable batteries and florescent light bulbs. Cut down on plastic bags, by using Tupperware-type containers and, for the grocery store, reusable tote bags. I hope that in the future, individuals and local governments give more attention to ways of reducing environmental pollutions. If so, things are more likely to get better.

God Is

By Marcus Steele

God Is...

A Savior

A Redeemer

A Healer

A Friend

The reason you
and I can live once again

The reason I breathe,
the reason I smile

The reason I *can* go the extra mile

The reason I live,
the reason I die

I'll never give up; He's the reason I try
The reason I see, when once I was blind
He's The Eternal Greatest of all time
The Unchangeable Ruler of everything
The reason I praise, worship and sing
The source from which all my words pour
God is all of my reasons – is He yours?