



## What Defiles a Man

After his disciples were criticized by Pharisees for eating with unwashed hands, Jesus told a multitude, *“Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man”* (Matthew 15:11). This offended the Pharisees, who were bound by the traditions of the elders, and even was confusing to His own disciples. Peter asked Jesus, *“Explain this parable to us”* (15).

The explanation is simple. Jesus was using the process of digestion to show that what we eat is eliminated, but the things that defile a man are what come from the heart, come from within. Things like, *“evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies”* (19).

Today, under Christ’s covenant, defilement is not physical, it is spiritual. Defilement is defined by our Lord as sin itself. Holiness is determined by the proper practice of our faith! *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”* (James 1:27).

So disregard man-made traditions, restrictions, requirements. *“These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh”* (Colossians 2:23).

Take sin seriously. This is what affects our relationship with God. Ask yourself, *“Have I defiled myself with sin?”*



# God's Son— Chronology and Location

It is interesting to note what the scriptures say about where and when the Son of God has been. For example, from the beginning.

**(John 1:1-2)**, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God."*

Then, something happened when God was ready in the "fullness of time."

**(Galatians 4:4)**, *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."*

Where did God send His Son? To the earth!

**(Matthew 1:20-21)**, *"...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Jesus' earthly father, Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

After a ministry that began in Galilee at about the age of 30, and lasted about 3 years, Jesus (God's Son) found Himself hanging on a tree, crucified in Jerusalem.

**(Matthew 27:50)**, *"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit."*

After three days in a tomb, Jesus was raised from the dead, spending about 40 days on the earth some of it among his disciples.

**(Acts 1:4-5)**, *"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

Then Jesus ascended back to God in heaven, where He is now, reigning in His kingdom.

## Hebrews 3:1-2

The first 6 verses of Hebrews 3 compare and contrast Jesus with Moses. First, the comparison in verses 1-2.

We begin with identification of Jesus as the Apostle and High priest of our confession. Notice the definite article. He is ‘the’ Apostle — a delegate or ambassador. In these last days, Jesus was the One (the only One) sent to man by God. He is also the only High Priest of the New Covenant, of the order of Melchizedek, (cf. Hebrews 6:20). He is the only high priest needed. *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”* (Hebrews 7:25).

Like Moses, Jesus was *“faithful to Him who appointed Him”* (2). He Himself said, *“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me”* (John 5:30). Moses was faithful as well, living his life in service to Jehovah. There are differences between the two, but as stewards, fulfilling God’s desire for them, they were certainly alike in their faithfulness to execute God’s will!

**(Colossians 3:1)**, *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”*

On the day of judgment, He will return in the clouds, to receive the faithful unto Himself.

**(2 Thessalonians 1:10)**, *“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”*

In eternity He will be with the faithful in heaven!

**(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**, *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*

An eventful, eternal existence, securing for us our redemption and reconciliation to God. Praise Him!

## Weeping Now, or Laughing Now?

I was asked to speak on a couple of passages in Luke 6 (in August), and while it is on my mind I would like to share with you some thoughts about the 21st and 25th verses. In the latter part of verse 21, our Lord says, *“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”* In the last part of verse 25 the thought is reversed, *“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”*

The initial thought I had is that these two principles are very clearly demonstrated in Luke 16. There, we have a contrast between the lives, deaths, and afterlives of a rich man, and a beggar named Lazarus. *“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores”* (Luke 16:19-21).

So, here is demonstrated one who weeps now: Lazarus, a beggar whose life was miserable. In fact, his life was so meager that it seems he was neglected even in his death. The Bible does not record his burial. In contrast is the rich man whose life was sumptuous. It was obvious that he was both rich and important (or at least he was able to afford the trappings of importance), as he was *“clothed in purple and fine linen.”* Thus he fits the description of one who laughs now. When he died, he was buried.

However, at death their fortunes changed. The one who laughed during life, we are told, *“And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in*

*this flame” (Luke 16:23-24). “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”*

Lazarus, however, a man who had a miserable life on earth, *“was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.”* (vs. 22). Abraham commented on this to the rich man, *“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented’* (Luke 16:25).

Now what should be evident in both the example of the rich man and Lazarus, and in the teaching of Jesus in Luke 6, the weeping or laughing is not what guarantees the opposite in eternity. Rather, it is a consequence of the life one determines to live while on earth.

The one who lives for the Lord often suffers in response to his faith. Jesus said, *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also”* (John 15:18-20). So, it is not surprising that the one who weeps now (as he lives upon the earth, his sorrow caused by tribulation and suffering) will laugh in eternity, as his life is rewarded with a place in heaven.

The one who is evil often is prosperous in this world. It is natural for us to wonder why! The prophet Habakkuk did, and asked God, *“You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he? <sup>14</sup> Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over*

*them?"* (Habakkuk 1:13-14). The Lord answered his question, pronouncing woes upon the ungodly. They think their prosperity will continue, "Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you" (Habakkuk 2:8). Ultimately all is summed up in these words, *"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him"* (Habakkuk 2:20).

God is preeminent. The prophet recognized this truth, and knew that ultimately God's will would be done, and the wicked would be punished. In the meantime, though the righteous suffer, there is the knowledge of salvation which brings comfort. *"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls —<sup>18</sup> Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills"* (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

The question is, where are your priorities? When do you want to laugh? Is happiness here on earth your priority, or eternal bliss in eternity? We must ask this for ourselves, and those we love. Jesus clearly showed that His coming would bring division on earth, but reconciliation with God. Ultimately we have to make a choice — Now or Later! Remember Jesus' words to the suffering brethren in Smyrna, *"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10).

The blessed are those who weep now, and laugh later! Please consider these truths.

## News and Notes at West Side

- **III.** Please keep in your prayers, sister *Patsy Johnson* as she continues her recovery from surgery, *Tommie Blackstock* who is still recovering from a recent hospital stay and is having in home physical therapy, and *Naomi Vidal*, who has a Dr. Appointment with a GI specialist on Wednesday to help diagnose her nausea issues... *Sister Ellen Davis*, *Carol Godfrey* and *Sara Fearing* were all ill Wednesday, and unable to come to Bible classes.
- **Traveling.** Please pray for a safe return for Tommy Davis who is presently traveling be-

cause of his job.

- **Men's Meeting.** The men will meet this afternoon directly after services for our regular business meeting. We ask all of the men to attend.
- **Men's Class.** The men will meet this evening at 6:30 pm at the building for a monthly study in the book of Proverbs. *Stan Cox* is scheduled to lead the discussion this month. All of the men are encouraged to come!
- **Visitors.** Don't forget to welcome our visitors to the services each week. Let them know just how encouraging their presence is to our congregation!

## Permanent Prayer List

### Chronically or Seriously ill

- Tommie Blackstock
- Stan Cox
- Gwen Matney
- Ed Matney
- Margaret Wood
- Mary Dean
- Arlene Holt
- Jack Holt

### Shut-ins

Charlene Garner / Hope Doss / Jo Wilson

### Others

- Laynie Holland
- Dennis Scroggins
- Abigail Saltz
- Dan Hash
- Chip Foster
- Bruce Tilley
- Randall Carrell
- Dalton Vilares

## For the Members

Events Calendar   Attendance Sheet



### Meetings — 2024

May 4-9

**Brett Hogland**

Blue Springs, MO

November 2-7 - Jesse Flowers

### Meetings — 2025

Spring - Reagan McClenny

Fall - Bruce Reeves

### Tri-Annual Singings

7:00 — 8:30 pm

**June 15, 2024**

October 19, 2024

February 15, 2025

### Men We Support

Thandu Moses

Arogyaswami Viyayabhaskar  
(India)

Admire Makuwe

(Zimbabwe)

### Last Sunday's Record

Attendance

58

Contribution

\$4,325

## West Side church of Christ

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

- 9:00 am (Morning Worship)
- 10:00 am (Bible Classes)
- 11:00 am (Lord's Supper/Worship)

### Wednesday

- 10:00 am (Ladies Bible Class)
- 7:30 pm (Evening Bible Study)

(Ladies' Bible class: September - May)

### Sign up for our West Side news texts

Text @**stancox** to: 469-208-6443

or

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Note: subject and body of email  
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- Links to other helpful internet sites



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