

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too)
Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + Fun stuff

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100% of our funding is directly or indirectly spent on encouraging spiritual growth, holiness, and abstinence from drugs, sex outside of marriage, and alcohol among young people.

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Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something",
 call: Your Mom; Your Dad; Your Pastor, or
 Rich or Marie Dymmel
 (336/674-7564 or 336/908-3652)

Crimson & White? What's this?

... This letter is part of a ministry primarily to students and singles. It started with college students. Now about 50% of the mailing list is students, middle and high school and college, and 25% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 25% since, well, they're old. Articles are on character, values, spiritual life, relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's Son, eternal, part of the single triune God, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified and risen, and is the *only* way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Our goal is mail in your mail box about 15 times a year. We're trying to say that you are important enough for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk. We also distribute a daily email devotional.

Another part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for those on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for you.

A college student reader chose the name **Crimson and White Connection** based on Isaiah 1:18 in the Bible "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." The cleansing of our nature and our sins is a universal need. If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way. If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. -- If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today. John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

March 1, 2009

Educational - the words

(c) Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., 2009
 RDymmel@AOL.com

As the choir is preparing for our concert on Palm Sunday weekend - (once on Saturday evening and again on Sunday evening; it's a drama / musical) - I was thinking about a couple "church words." You know, words we use in church. And I was thinking, "I wonder how many don't know what the words actually mean?"

In my math classes, I drive kids crazy with definitions. "But this is a math class. Those are words. Words are for an English class." "If you don't know what the words mean, you can't describe what you're doing, or, what they are asking you to do."


There are lots of "church words" that when you are talking with someone who is "outside," they don't understand you if you use those words. Be careful.

I am reminded of something I was just reading this week in a book that was given to me by the rep at the exhibit table for "Voice of the Martyrs" when I had an exhibit table for Crimson & White at the weekend conference by Men At The Cross in Charlotte. The book is *Tortured for Christ*. He was talking about witnessing to some Russian soldiers. (*Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand, Voice of the Martyrs, 1998, p.19) "I told them the parable of the man who had a hundred sheep and lost one. They did not understand. ... They asked "How is it that he has a hundred sheep? Has not the Communist collective farm taken them away?" Then I said that Jesus is a king. They answered, "All the kings have been bad men who controlled the people, so Jesus must also be a dictator." When I told them the parable of the workers in the vineyard, they said, "Well, these did very well to rebel against the owner of the vineyard. The vineyard has to belong to the collective." Everything was new for them. ... after many years of communism, we had to use an entirely new approach." - The point here is that they didn't communicate because they didn't understand the concepts behind the words. They didn't understand the words.

As I started looking these up, I learned something that I didn't know before. So in this issue I want to write about words.

In Christ, Rich

**** Since I dated this issue March 1, I decided to make sure that I had room for something about relationships. Why? Because 3/1/69 was our wedding day making 3/1/2009 our 40th anniversary. I think that alone makes us at least some sort of experts on this subject. You'll find some relationship thoughts based on the books, *Date or Soul Mate?* and *If Men Are Like Busses, How Do I Catch One?* on page 6. ****

 *From my mail box... mostly my e-mail in box!*
 ... mail will be edited to protect your privacy. [I will ALWAYS delete things that would identify you from e-mails you send me unless you specifically tell me I can use your name.]

Saturday, 2/21, the daily e-mail thoughts. a week long series titled "The Secret to Life," included links to some online videos of various groups doing a dramatic enactment to a song, Everything by Lifehouse. (Obviously you'll have to carefully type the link address. Maybe someday technology will let you click on the link here.) That prompted these two comments

Subject: RE: Sa., 02/21/09 – The Secret to Life - 5
 Date: 2/21/2009 6:55:58 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
 From: M____@____.edu

Rich, Very interesting you sent this. our drama group is performing this very act tomorrow (3 times) for a local church. I just thought wow... what a great reminder. So thanks!

Meg

P.S- G____ will be sending you his information to be added to the list to get the C&WC! You'll get it when he gets a chance to send it out.

Date: 2/21/2009 8:44:18 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
 From: ____k__@live.com

Rich, Thank you so much for this. These are so great! I was actually watching the first one yesterday, I think it might be from a Battle Cry or Acquire the Fire event. But I hadn't seen the others, and you were right, the extra bits on the ten minute videos are very cool. Every time I watch I get chills when the black shirt gets ripped off to reveal a white, clean being of God. Whoever made that is brilliant, I think.

Thanks, Katie

Sa., 02/21/09 – The Secret to Life - 5

I ran across an email I got a while back, I didn't save the date with it. It was a link to a video on GodTube. It was a drama depicting our relationship with Jesus, then distracted by the world's temptations, and Jesus waiting for us, and finally rescuing us to restore the relationship.

Went to view the GodTube video, found 6 links to presentations of the same (one offers to send the DVD of their Jan 13, 08; I contacted him, said he'd send it). Each one is similar, yet different. Four are or appear to be church youth groups at a church. One appears to maybe be a much larger stage setting. And one is a video production / short movie. I've given you the time length of each video so you know what to expect and allow to watch them. – Watch at least one. – I liked the two 10 minute ones best.

Some may not like the "music style." Get over it. I've found the lyrics (below) if you don't understand them all on the video... powerful drama.

Rich

Hey, I don't care how long it takes to load, [it's not long at all, a couple seconds] you will not regret any amount of time spent watching this! It is a powerful skit and testimony. Read some of the comments as well.

Live well, Love strong, Lean on Christ

Mike Garrison

Lighthouse: Everything drama

www.godtube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=ee73e63418003b47d7d5

5:33 (big stage, dark setting, stage lights)

www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=95f3d6584c9a271900b3
 6:04 (church fellowship hall, small setting, lighting) This was recorded during our Chaos night for the local youth. As a result of the night 5 were saved and we had 2 re-dedications that night.

www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=8a0b3c9da04d2ee686bd
 9:59

[Oriental] Short film version of the Lifehouse Everything skit. By Skyline SIB/Skylight Studios. Based on the original skit by The Mission. [I like the words on screen at the intro and the end.] WHEN YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, I'LL BE THERE WITH YOU. WHEN YOU'RE IN ROUGH WATERS, YOU WILL NOT DROWN. WHEN YOU'RE IN A FIX, IT WON'T BE A DEAD END. BECAUSE I AM GOD, YOUR PERSONAL GOD. I PAID A HUGE PRICE FOR YOU... THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME. Isaiah 13:2 (The Message) FOR HE HIMSELF HAS SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." Heb 13:8

www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=d29c16e3c01dd85833d2
 10:00

Performed LIVE at Old Dominion Baptist Church in Bristow, VA on January 13, 2008. Ours begins with the Creation account and leads into the actual drama. VERY POWERFUL!! As good as the original shown on GodTube! DVD version you can use available for FREE - email me: aaron.tolson@odbclife.org

[creation video, created man, unity, temptations / lure /distractions (boys (suave), money, party girl (alcohol), glamour, cutting, suicide), rebellion, salvation, reunited]

I did not come for those who are whole. I came for those who are wounded, tired, and hurting. I came for you. ~ Jesus

www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=41f1cb5bab3c761f150d
 Cottdale Baptist Church Youth Drama Team

www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=2bbda5d0246b3e5ab6c3
 [Black] Fervent Prayer Church - ferventprayer.org 10512 East 38th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46235 317-898-2751 Fervent Prayer teens present a skit set to the song Everything by Lifehouse. Representing the struggles and distractions of life that teens and others battle. The Victory is in Jesus.

www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/l/lifehouse/everything.html

Lifehouse Everything lyrics

Find me here
 And speak to me
 I want to feel you
 I need to hear you
 You are the light
 That's leading me to the place
 Where I find peace again

You are the strength
 That keeps me walking
 You are the hope
 That keeps me trusting
 You are the light to my soul
 You are my purpose
 You're everything

And how can I stand here with you And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this	now And how can I stand here with you And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this	You're all I need You're everything, everything	And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better any better than this
You calm the storms And you give me rest You hold me in your hands You won't let me fall You steal my heart When you take my breath away Would you take me in take me deeper	And how can I stand here with you And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this Cause you're all I want	You're all I want You're all I need You're everything, everything (repeat 2x)	Chorus: Cause you're all I want... And how can I stand here with you And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this
		And how can I stand here with you And not be moved by you Would you tell me how could it be Any better than this And how can I stand here with you	

Weirdness me

Rich Dymmel, EdD, 2009

Do "things" ... I'm not sure how to say this... Did animals used to be able to talk and maybe still can, but God has currently stopped them from talking? But they could talk, can talk?

Eve carried on a conversation with the serpent. It must have been a normal experience, talking snakes, otherwise she would have said, "EEEEK! A talking snake!"

And the prophet's donkey talked to him.

And can do lakes and oceans "behave" and can hear? God tells Job about wisdom in Job 28 (NCV): 13 People do not understand the value of wisdom; it cannot be found among those who are alive. 14 The deep ocean says, 'It's not in me;' the sea says, 'It's not in me.' And then in Job 38 when God talks about who's in charge of the oceans, God asks Job (NKJV) 8"Or who shut in the sea with doors,... 10When I fixed My limit for it (the sea), And set bars and doors; 11When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!' Ahhh, He's talking to the ocean and it's waves! The way Peterson words those verses in The Message is pretty cool: 10Then I made a playpen for it, a strong playpen so it couldn't run loose, 11And said, 'Stay here, this is your place. Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.' - God is telling Job about when He TALKED TO THE OCEAN!

And we all should know when Jesus talks to the wind and the waves(Mark 4:39), no not just talks to them, most translations I have use the word "rebuked" the wind. That's like scolding a misbehaving child. And He says to the sea, "Peace. Be still." ...

Mark 4:39-41 NKJV:

39Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Peterson's The Message paraphrases it:

39... he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. ... 41They were in absolute awe, staggered. "Who is this, anyway?" they asked. "Wind and sea at his beck and call!"

The disciples are flabbergasted. They say, 'Who is he that even the wind and the waves obey him?!' - Okay, here's more of my weirdness... The lakes, oceans, wind... are they "like people" and can hear and like Peterson uses the word in Job, have "tantrums"? - - That reminds me of an article I have at the www.CrimsonWhite.org website about "Rogue Waves." Single waves that are 30, 60, 80 feet high that

You can get a 2-week free trial - (I didn't have to say "free," did I, since EVERYTHING we send from C&W is free) of the daily e-mail thoughts by simply send an **email** to RDymmel@AOL.com and say "Try free daily please."

If you get the C&WC and don't have e-mail, we'll even print it out and **snail-mail** it to you at the end of each week. Just drop me a note and ask for it. - I got just such a request this week.

totally at random roll across the ocean, unpredictably. Or a tsunami? Is that the ocean throwing a tantrum, or ... or something.

Back to Easter. Back to the Triumphal Entry on "Palm Sunday" ... Luke 19. Jesus has drawn a crown as He's coming into Jerusalem. The Pharisees are annoyed. (NKJV): 39And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." [NCV: "... tell your followers not to say these things." NLT: "... "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"] 40But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." -- Whoa! What did Jesus just say? The stones would cry out!? Stones can talk!?

I'm a fairly smart guy. (Some days more so than others as I get older, sometimes). And the smarter I get, the more I understand some really cool, interesting stuff, and the more I understand that there is even more that I don't understand. And I am convinced that there is a WHOLE lot more to this world than what any of us, even the "smartest" scientists, can see and understand.

Maybe this kind of stuff is like feathers to tickle our brains and imaginations with. Things that just tell us, "Hey, there is stuff you'll never figure out. Just let me be a God that is WAY to complicated for you to figure out." Cause really now, if I could figure out God, I don't think I'd want a God that was simple enough for me to figure out. He'd be someone down on a level with me. And I need a God that is SO MUCH MORE that ... me.

Don't try to make sense of all this. Don't try to figure it out, I doubt we ever can. I seriously doubt I ever will. It's just something to think about and recognize like God says in Isaiah 55:9 (NKJV): 9"**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**"



(See Genesis 3)

12-16-2005

THERE'S SOME SALESMAN HERE WITH A GOOD DEAL ON AN APPLE ... ARE WE INTERESTED?

I know I used this cartoon last time, but it fit so well again.

What Do The WORDS Mean??

Rich Dymmel, EdD, 2009

When I teach Algebra, or whatever, my students often get upset with me when they say something, I do what they say, but it's not what they meant. They didn't use the right word, they didn't quite get the vocabulary yet, or they miss-phrased it grammatically. "If you don't understand the words, you can't communicate," is what I say. "Words?! This is a math class! Words are for in English class!" "But you have to use words to describe the math processes and use the words correctly. And you can't do that if you don't understand the words. It's about communication."

Some of you may accurately know the meaning of the words. Many may think they know the words. And I'd bet many don't really know what the all the words mean. They are just "church words" and you've either never understood, never bothered to find out, whatever. Here are a few "church/Bible words" you'll hear maybe more around times like Easter, and Christmas, too, and precisely what they mean and refer to.

Ever wonder why Easter doesn't come at the same time every year? Ever wonder just exactly what the charges were that they grabbed Jesus and tried Him for? - Well, those are some of the things we'll get to as we take a look at the words.

We'll look at the words Easter, Hosanna, Passover, Triumphal Entry, amen (our choir Easter music ends with FIVE Amens. What does that mean?

Easter - Easter Sunday, the "first day of the week." Jesus rose from the grave on the 3rd day, the first day of the week. The count goes: Friday, 1; Saturday, 2; Sunday, 3rd day. Then the history behind the word actually starts to get a little weird.

Easter

From Easton's Bible Dictionary:

Originally a Saxon word (eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honour of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover. Hence the name came to be given to the festival of the resurrection of Christ, which occurred at the time of the Passover. In the early English versions this word was frequently used as the translation of the Greek pascha (the Passover). When the Authorized Version (1611) [KJV] was formed, the word "Passover" was used in all passages in which this word pascha occurred, except in Act 12:4. ...

From the Holman Bible Dictionary:

....The early centuries saw considerable controversy over the proper date for the Easter celebration. A minority, influenced by the Jewish origins of Christianity, insisted that the celebration should occur on 14 Nisan of the Jewish calendar, the day of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of John. Most Christians rejected this practice because it meant that the special yearly celebration of the resurrection would usually not occur on Sunday, the weekly day of the resurrection. Since about A.D. 300, the date of Easter has been determined by a complex calculation using the lunar calendar. In general, Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox.

Since Easter occurs in the spring, many of the traditional non-Christian springtime symbols of the renewal of nature became attached to the Christian celebration. In some cases an attempt has been made to Christianize the symbols. Thus, for centuries many Christians have regarded the egg as a symbol of the resurrection. The English word "Easter" comes from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn.

Passion

Passion is always a word that "bothers" me. There are the more obvious meaning like 'a passion for race cars' or Marie and I can be 'passionate' (we won't elaborate on that)... you understand those meanings. At dictionary.com, the FIRST definition is "any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling, as love or hate" #8 is "an outburst of strong emotion or feeling" #10 is "the state of being acted upon or affected by something external, esp. something alien to one's nature or one's customary behavior (contrasted with ACTION)." And #11: "(often initial capital letter) Theology. a. the sufferings of Christ on the cross or His sufferings subsequent to the Last Supper. b. the narrative of Christ's sufferings as recorded in the Gospels."

Now, to me, that makes the word just a bit confusing. But that's just the way words can be. Now if you stop and think about definitions, #1,8 and 10, it does fit Jesus' suffering, strong emotions, being acted ON in the events after the Last Supper.

From Easton's Bible Dictionary:

Only once found, in Acts 1:3, meaning suffering,

Hosanna

From Easton's Bible Dictionary:

Save now! or Save, we beseech, (Matt. 21:9). This was a customary form of acclamation at the feast of Tabernacles. (Compare Ps. 118:25.)

From the Holman Bible Dictionary:

HOSANNA (Hoh san' nuh) Cry with which Jesus was greeted on the occasion of His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem (Mark 11:9). The words with which the Savior was welcomed by the multitude are drawn from Psalm 118:25-26. "Hosanna" is a Hebrew or Aramaic word that is best translated as a prayer: "Save now," or "Save, we beseech Thee." When the residents of Jerusalem, carrying palm branches, met Jesus and hailed Him as the One who comes in the name of the Lord, they included in their acclamation a plea for salvation. See Psalms; Triumphal Entry.

Immanuel

From Easton's Bible Dictionary:

God with us. In the Old Testament it occurs only in Isa. 7:14 and Isa. 8:8. Most Christian interpreters have regarded these words as directly and exclusively a prophecy of our Saviour, an interpretation borne out by the words of the evangelist Matthew (Matt. 1:23).

Palm Sunday

has some real significance.

From the Holman Bible Dictionary:

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY The entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem on the Sunday prior to His crucifixion. Due to the fact that palm branches were placed before Him, this day is often called "Palm Sunday." The event is recorded in Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15. All accounts agree in substance with each adding certain detail. Whether by prearrangement or by divine foreknowledge, the disciples found a colt in Bethphage as Jesus had described (Matthew ties the account closely to Zechariah's prophecy (9:9), mentioning the colt and its mother.) It is likely that Christ rode the donkey for the more difficult part of the journey, transferring to the colt upon actually entering Jerusalem. There a large crowd applauded Him, spreading the road with their garments and with branches. They acknowledged Him as the son of David.

The triumphal entry is of vital significance in understanding the messianic mission of Jesus. Prior to this moment, Jesus had refused to allow any public acknowledgment of His being the Messiah. By conducting His ministry outside Jerusalem, He had avoided further intensification of conflict with the Jewish religious leaders. Now, however, the time was at hand. The opponents of Jesus understood the strong messianic implications of the manner of His entry into Jerusalem. The riding upon the colt, the garments and palm branches in the road, and

the shouts of the multitude—all of this pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. When He was urged to quiet the people, Jesus replied, “If these become silent, the stones will cry out!” (Luke 19:40 NASB).

Ironically, though the triumphal entry was a public acceptance of being the Messiah and presented a direct challenge to His enemies, it must have been a disappointment to many of His followers. Christ did not enter Jerusalem upon a war horse of conquest but upon a colt representing humility. As a result, the religious leaders demanded His crucifixion, while the multitudes ultimately turned away with indifference.

Christ

Let’s back up a minute and look even at the name, Jesus Christ. The Bible and the languages of the day make some interesting stuff. “Jesus” is the Greek form, the New Testament was written in Greek, of the Hebrew name “Joshua,” actually a pretty common name. - It’s like my name in English is Richard, but in Spanish that is Ricardo, okay? - But “the Christ,” now that takes it to a whole new meaning.

In Matthew 16:16, Mark 8:29, and Luke 9:20 Peter says “You are the Christ” (my emphasis). Some translations substitute or add “the Messiah” at “the Christ.” You can also look at the incidents in John 10:24 and 11:27, they refer to Jesus as “the Christ.” So just what are they saying?

Easton’s Bible Dictionary; it spells it out pretty specifically I think what we’re talking about when we say “the Christ” or the Messiah.”:

Christ (or Messiah)

Anointed, The Greek translation of the Hebrew word rendered “Messiah” (q.v.), the official title of our Lord, occurring five hundred and fourteen times in the New Testament. It denotes that he was anointed or consecrated to his great redemptive work as Prophet, Priest, and King of his people. He is Jesus the Christ (Acts 17:3; 18:5; Matt. 22:42), the Anointed One. He is thus spoken of by Isaiah (Isa. 61:1), and by Daniel (Dan. 9:24-26), who styles him “Messiah the Prince.”

The Messiah is the same person as “the seed of the woman” (Gen. 3:15), “the seed of Abraham” (Gen. 22:18), the “Prophet like unto Moses” (Deut. 18:15), “the priest after the order of Melchizedek” (Ps. 110:4), “the rod out of the stem of Jesse” (Isa. 11:1, 10), the “Immanuel,” the virgin’s son (Isa. 7:14), “the branch of Jehovah” (Isa. 4:2), and “the messenger of the covenant” (Mal. 3:1). This is he “of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write.” The Old Testament Scripture is full of prophetic declarations regarding the Great Deliverer and the work he was to accomplish. Jesus the Christ is Jesus the Great Deliverer, the Anointed One, the Saviour of men.

This name denotes that Jesus was divinely appointed, commissioned, and accredited as the Saviour of men (Heb. 5:4; Isa. 11:2-4; 49:6; John 5:37; Acts 2:22).

To believe that “Jesus is the Christ” is to believe that he is the Anointed, the Messiah of the prophets, the Saviour sent of God, that he was, in a word, what he claimed to be. This is to believe the gospel, by the faith of which alone men can be brought unto God. That Jesus is the Christ is the testimony of God, and the faith of this constitutes a Christian (1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 5:1).

Blasphemy.

This is what they killed Jesus over. He disrespected God... according to them... by saying He was God and equal with God. Jesus Christ. The Christ. This refers to the Christ, the chosen One, the Messiah. Like the movie a couple years ago was properly titled “The Passion of the Christ.” At the time I noticed a lot of people in talking about the movie would leave out “the” in the middle or leave off “the Christ.” Multiple times Jesus said he was God. John 14:9 is just one: He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

blasphemy - Synonyms from my Microsoft thesaurus: profanity, sacrilege, irreverence

From dictionary.com:

1. impious utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.

2. Judaism.

a. an act of cursing or reviling God.

b. pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) (we add vowels and say Yahweh (pron. Ya-way)) in the original, now forbidden manner instead of using a substitute pronunciation such as Adonai. [If you don’t remember or know, in ancient Judaism, they were so reverent of God that they wouldn’t even say his name even as they read scripture; they substituted Lord or Adonai (adored one). In making a copy of a scroll, when they got to the name, they would wash, get a new pen, write the single word, destroy the pen, wash, get a new pen to continue.]

3. Theology. the crime of assuming to oneself the rights or qualities of God. [This is where they nailed Jesus. This was His “crime” to the religious leaders. Jesus had broken no law, committed no crime, except He said He was God, which He is, so it was true. But they didn’t believe Him so they religious leaders used that as the charge to have him killed. Some try to say He never claimed to be God. He DID on several occasions. I gave you one, John 14:9.]

4. irreverent behavior toward anything held sacred, priceless, etc.: He uttered blasphemies against life itself.

Another definition from dictionary.com states it as:

1.b. The act of claiming for oneself the attributes and rights of God.

Do you see the irony? They were so “religious” that they didn’t recognize that He was the Truth, He was the One they were waiting for and worshipping!

In our Easter choir music/drama between songs 6 and 7, Joseph of Arimathea (who’s tomb Jesus was put in) says to Nicodemus (a member of the Sanhedran, the uppity rulers and teachers in the Temple/Jerusalem): “You know the irony? I’ll bet He’d give His life to save us, yet we won’t even risk our prestige to save Him.”

-- We’ll be singing Saturday and Sunday evenings, April 4 & 5, Palm Sunday weekend. --

From Easton’s Bible Dictionary:

Our Lord was accused of blasphemy when he claimed to be the Son of God (Matt. 26:65; compare Matt. 9:3; Mark 2:7). ... Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Matt. 12:31, 32; Mark 3:28, 29; Luke 12:10) is regarded by some as a continued and obstinate rejection of the gospel, and hence is an unpardonable sin, simply because as long as a sinner remains in unbelief he voluntarily excludes himself from pardon. Others regard the expression as designating the sin of attributing to the power of Satan those miracles which Christ performed, or generally those works which are the result of the Spirit’s agency.

From the Holman Bible Dictionary:

BLASPHEMY is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning literally “to speak harm.” In the biblical context, blasphemy is an attitude of disrespect that finds expression in an act directed against the character of God.

Amen

Easton’s Bible Dictionary - This Hebrew word means firm, and hence also faithful (Rev. 3:14). In Isa. 65:16, the Authorized Version has “the God of truth,” which in Hebrew is “the God of Amen.” It is frequently used by our Saviour to give emphasis to his words, where it is translated “verily.” Sometimes, only, however, in John’s Gospel, it is repeated, “Verily, verily.” ...

It is found singly and sometimes doubly at the end of prayers (Ps. 41:13; 72:19; 89:52), to confirm the words and invoke the fulfillment of them. ... In the primitive churches it was common for the general audience to say “Amen” at the close of the prayer (1 Cor. 14:16).

The promises of God are Amen; i.e., they are all true and sure (2 Cor. 1:20).

I hope knowing the words helps you appreciate what is said and happening in the scripture and songs, particularly as Easter approaches.

Daily Encounter ~ Wednesday, December 10, 2008
 Know God: <http://tinyurl.com/8glq9>

By Richard Innes. Published and (c) by ACTS International www.actsweb.org

Today's Daily Encounter

Lessons from Tiny Creatures

“Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; coney are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.”¹

The ants teach us the wisdom of preparation. “Better to be prepared and not called, than to be called and not prepared,” is a wise principle to adhere to. For instance, if I want a good job in the future, I need to prepare today. If I want a healthy marriage, I need to work on my growth and maturity today, for only mature people have mature relationships. And if I want God to use me, I need to develop the gifts and talents he has given me.

“Aha!” you may say, “but what about the disciples. They were a motley crew of uneducated peasants.” “But, aha,” I answer, “they spent three years in training with the Master Teacher of all teachers and the Master Trainer par excellence.” As an old Chinese proverb says, “Dig your well before you're thirsty.”

The coney or rock badgers teach us the wisdom of precaution. How true is the old saying, “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” If you want to avoid temptation, don't go where you know you'll be tempted. If you don't want to get into debt over your head, don't borrow what you can't pay. And if you can't swim, don't go into the deep end of the pool. God is faithful, but if we jump off a building, he won't catch us on the way down, as he doesn't go against his own rules! He won't change the universal law of gravity because of my foolishness and irresponsibility. He won't change the moral law either. If I try to break it, it will break me.

The locusts teach us the wisdom of unity. Have you ever tried to row a boat with a friend? If you don't pull together in harmony, you'll get nowhere fast, go in circles, or run into the bank. To keep moving forward, you don't have to over-exert yourself, just keep pulling together. And if we don't pull together as a family, a church, or a nation, working in harmony with the principles of life as found in God's Word, we will end up on the rocks!

The lizards teach us the wisdom of perseverance. “If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done ... Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow--perhaps it all will,”² says the Word of God. And again, “It is God himself, in his mercy, who has given us this wonderful work [of telling his Good News to others], and so we never give up.”³ As the saying goes, “Quitters never win and winners never quit.”

Suggested prayer: “Dear God, thank you for your words of wisdom--principles for everyday living--as found in the Bible. Please give me a greater love for Your Word and the desire to live by the principles as found therein. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen.”

1. Proverbs 30:24-28 (NIV).
 2. Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6 (TLB-NIV).
 3. 2 Corinthians 4:1 (TLB-NIV).

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Relationships, Love, and ...

Who are YOU? and Getting too good a deal

Part 3 of a series.

© 2002, 2009 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, B.S., M.A., M.A., Ed.D.

In *How to Know If Someone Is Worth Pursuing in Two Dates or Less* (Neil Clark Warren, 1999, ISBN: 0-7852-6904-5. The 2nd printing is titled *Date or Soul Mate?* ISBN 0-7852-8303-X) Neil Clark Warren puts forth an interesting concept: “Making the deal.” (Chapter 9: The Principles of Negotiating a Great Deal.) If you get “too much” it may be a bad deal. – “Getting too much ... How can you get too much? And how is that bad? I want someone who is drop dead gorgeous, wealthy family, fun, great person, affectionate, hot, ..., ...” you say. Well. What do they get in return? Sloppy, lazy, dull, no integrity, unkept, unambitious, looking for that “free ride,” irresponsible, ..., ... ? but, maybe you're “good in bed.” (Actually sociological research says that having “practiced” already may have a detrimental effect on marital happiness and marital longevity.) How long do you think it will be before they start to think, “I could have done a lot better”? So ... what do you have to bring to the deal?

In *If Men Are Like Busses, Then How Do I Catch One?* (Michelle McKinney Hammond, 2000, 185 pp, ISBN: 0-7394-1324-4) Hammond has the answer. It's not really “bait.” There are several really deep concepts that permeate her book. It has a marvelous style, an easy read. **AND IT IS FOR GUYS, TOO.** Guy's need to be a “good catch.” And guys, thoughts on what to be looking for.

(1) You will attract the kind of people based on what you think of yourself. Okay. Here goes a real tough complex sentence. You may need to read it several times, real slow. – I am not what I think I am. I am not what you think I am. I am what I think you think I am. – How's your image of yourself? What do you think other people think of you? “I'm a worthwhile person, and worth waiting for, and worth pursuing” will attract people who are valuable people because you think you deserve good people. “I'm worthless, a failure” will attract “losers.” Hammond writes (p.40), “We attract people who feed off of what we think of ourselves. Did you know that? When I felt I wasn't a great prize, I attracted people who reinforced that idea in my mind. ... I didn't feel as if I had any personal purpose, so I would lose myself in theirs and neglect the call God had placed on my life.” What is God's call to you?

“I gave my heart away to the undeserving because I didn't know how much it was worth. I pawned it for temporary affection and blew my wad on a chance. Now I had no heart and no cash to get it back. I was empty, spent by my efforts to fulfill myself with external sources that would never satisfy.” (p.41)

(2) This is really a “fun read.” I like this model – Want to catch a bus? Get to intimately know the person who runs the whole bus line. Ask Him to schedule the perfect bus to come by and take you to a wonderful destination.

(3) In order to recognize the right bus passing by, you need to work on becoming the best person you can possibly be. Perceptive. Wise. Discerning. Not falling for ... “If you don't know what you stand for then you'll fall for anything.” Then you will recognize right away if you have gotten on a bus that is headed for a destination that is right for you, or wrong.

“How do you become a whole person? By choosing to live each day in purpose, on purpose.” (p.68) “Are you in love with the Lord, or just giving him lip service?” (p.66)

What do you have to offer to bring to “the deal”? Maybe you need to improve yourself in a few ways to have more to offer, more to bargain with? Then you can hope to get more. Start with a pure heart filled with God's Spirit and the fruits of the spirit (and I don't mean being a “religious nut”). Add some goals and self-motivation and direction.

Rich

Just for the fun of it...

CLEAN LAFFS Monday, December 29, 2008

[Even teaching Bible on the joke page this time.]

Have you ever heard the expression, "Straining at a gnat while swallowing a camel?" I never knew what the heck that was supposed to mean until today. When I came upon the joke in the middle of today's issue I determined to do a little research and solve this mystery once and for all.

As you might have guessed, it has a biblical origin. In Matthew 23 Jesus was chastising the Pharisees for observing the letter of the law but not practicing the spirit of the law.

He said, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

The important thing to understand is that according to the laws of Moses certain things were forbidden to eat, like insects, pigs and camels, among other things.

So Jesus was comparing the Pharisees devotion to the minutia of the law while ignoring the large picture to straining one miniscule little insect out of water or wine so as not to contaminate it with a "forbidden" animal, and then drinking that wine with a camel steak.

Anyway, it seems to make the joke just a little bit funnier if you actually understand it.

Laugh it up, Joe

Noah was standing at the gangplank checking off the pairs of animals when he saw three camels trying to get on board.

"Wait a minute!" he said. "Two each is the limit. One of you will have to stay behind."

"It won't be me," said the first camel. "I'm the camel whose back is broken by the last straw."

"I'm the one people swallow while straining at a gnat," said the second.

"And I am the one that shall pass through the eye of a needle sooner than a rich man shall enter heaven." said the third.

"Well, I guess you had better all come in," said Noah, "the world is going to need all of you."

today'sTHOT=====

Don't play stupid with me. I always win.

today'sTHOT=====

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but he turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

today'sFUNNY=====

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud during the service. Finally, his big sister had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked indignantly.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers!"

today'sTHOT=====

Ed admits that when he entered his dentist's office for root canal work, he lost his nerve.

{I know a couple C&WC readers that just had their wisdom teeth extracted... Lost their wisdom... not smart any more?}

=====

Share with someone

Giving a friend a copy of this letter and asking them if they would like to get it too, is an easy way of witnessing and starting a conversation about God.

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Becoming a Christian: A-B-C's

A – Admit that you're a sinner. You just can't meet God's standard. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (also see 1 John 1:8).

B – Believe that Jesus was the Son of God and died in your place, took the punishment for you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world (that includes you) that he gave His only begotten son (that's Jesus) that whosoever (that's you again) believes in Him should not perish (that's saved from eternal death, Hell) but have eternal life (given eternal life with God, that's "salvation" or to "be saved")." John 3:16

C – Confess your sin to God. – The Bible says, "If we confess (own up to) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us..." 1John 1:9.

S – Submit yourself to His commands and control.

Want Jesus in your life? Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I confess to You my sin and need to be saved. I turn away from my old sin and place my trust and faith in You as the only way to be saved." Now contact your pastor, or contact us at 1-336-674-7564, or call 1-888-NEED-HIM, and say, "I just asked Jesus to be my Lord."

Crimson & White Connection

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Mar. 1, 2009

Educational - Know the Words
What Do The Words Mean (for Easter)
Lessons from Tiny Creatures
Relationships - Who are you? Get a good deal

You can't be good enough to deserve heaven. And you can't be bad enough to be beyond God's forgiveness.

Someone PRAYED for YOU and mentioned YOU before God's throne as this was prepared for mailing. God bless and watch over you today.

A publication so dangerous it now comes with it's own warning label.

Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

WARNING

Do not read the Crimson & White Connection unless you want your HEART ENCOURAGED and your MIND CHALLENGED and

"Whoso loves believes the impossible" - Who believes the impossible for you?

Hypocrisy means you're still doing those things you said you regret.

Love is ... When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more." Matthew, age 7