



The Bible Banner

October 2017



Pillars of the Reformation

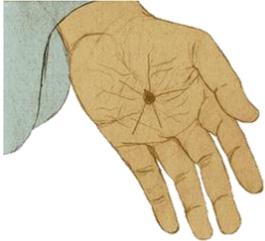
A priest visiting in a hospital stopped at the bedside of a dying woman. He offered to forgive her sins and offer extreme unction.

“Let me see your hands”, she whispered.

The priest held out his hands.

“You are an imposter,” she gasped. “The only one who can forgive my sins has prints of nails in his hands.”

Mark 2:10, 1 John 1:9



Catsup

- 6 oz. (180 mL) tomato paste
 - 2 Tbsp. (30 mL) honey (more, to taste)
 - 2 Tbsp. (30 mL) lemon juice
 - Garlic and onion powder to taste
 - Water, as needed
- You may blend this, but I often just mix it by hand thoroughly. Add water to the desired consistency. Freeze in between uses or use within a week. This may be put in a squeeze bottle if desired.



Baked Crinkle Fry Potatoes

Scrub potatoes. Cut into French fry shapes with a crinkle cutter. In a bowl, add about 3 Tbsp. (45 mL) of olive oil. Add Lawry-like seasoning to taste. I like to use red potatoes and leave the skin on. Many of the nutrients and most of the flavor in the potatoes are right next to, or in the skins.

(Mock Lawry’s Seasoning -- 1 cup (300 g) salt, 1/3 cup (65 g) organic sugar, 1/3 cup (35 g) paprika, 3 Tbsp. (45 mL) garlic powder, 2 Tbsp. (30 mL) onion powder, 1 Tbsp. (15 mL) celery seed-----Blend.)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“True faith will no more fail to produce good works than the sun can cease to give light.”

Martin Luther

5 PILLARS OF THE REFORMATION



Repairers of the Breach

This month, many are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, is *"the change of religion from the corruptions of popery to its primitive purity, begun by Luther, A.D. 1517."* What I find interesting is that in this quote as well as in many different books about the Reformation, the word primitive always seems to appear. In like manner, one of my favorite books describes a "reformation" at the end of time, *"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times."* {GC88 464.1}

This means that the Reformation of the 1500's will be repeated with even greater power and even more primitive godliness. So my question is, "what is primitive godliness"? Unlike what many think of today in connection with the word primitive, it actually means *"Pertaining to the beginning or origin; original; first..."* Primitive godliness will take us back to *"the old paths, where is the good way,"* (Jer. 6:16) and modern reformers will be repairers of the breach caused by apostasy. *"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."* Isaiah 58:12

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Perhaps it is very elementary, but when I think of the word primitive or beginning, I think, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1) This text parallels the last day call of the first angel to *"worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."* (Rev. 14:7) So among modern "reformers" we should be seeing an elimination and disapproval of the scorn toward the Creator that comes along with evolutionary theory. And we should be seeing a reformation exalting the great facts of creation week as presented by the Holy Scriptures.

So now we have a glimpse of what primitive might include, but what is godliness? The Psalmist describes it thus, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* [Psalm 1:1-3.] I believe this author rightly states, *"It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among his professed people."*{GC88 478.3}

So we are looking for a reformation that includes both creation and the law of God. Common sense should tell us that a good place to start looking for this is in the law of God itself. And we find the connection in the fourth commandment. Exodus 20:11 states, *"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."* This command of God says *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:"* Exodus 20:8-10

Standing as a second witness, we find that the blessing of the seventh day indeed began *"In the beginning"*. Genesis 2:1-3 records, *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."*

As I was reading an old Bible one day, I found this last day reformation fact "hidden" in the "Sola Scriptura" of the 1535 Coverdale Bible. Isaiah 58:12 (with updated spelling) reads thus, *"Then the places that have ever been waste, shall be builded of thee: there shalt thou lay a foundation for many kindreds. Thou shalt be called the maker up of hedges, and ye builder again of ye way of the Sabbath".* According to this verse, last day "reformers" will be exalting the Sabbath of God's creation.



As quickly as in the next verse, the King James Bible also confirms the concept of the Sabbath day as part of a last day reformation. *"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."* Isaiah 58:13,14

What a blessing may be found in this reformation of primitive godliness that begins with worship of the Creator on the 7th day, the day of His choice. For true reformation must always be founded in truth. Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) and Mark tells us *"Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."* (Mark 2:28) May God help us all to display a reformation of primitive godliness and to truly be repairers of the breach.

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES



Cc-by-2.0—Wikimedia Commons: author: snowmanradio

Lovebirds are small parrots that are very social and loving. There are nine different kinds of lovebirds. They all live in Africa or on the island of Madagascar. Lovebirds live in groups called flocks, and they eat fruits, vegetables, grasses, and seeds. They love to chew on things, and they love taking birdbaths. Lovebirds actually get their name from the long amounts of time that paired birds sit together. They seem to enjoy each other's company. Just like the lovebirds spend time with each other, we should take time to spend with Jesus, anytime, every time, and ALL the time. Do you spend time with Jesus each day?



Memory Text

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Christian's father read him a story about Martin Luther. He learned about how Martin Luther wanted to test everything by the Bible. Christian wanted to do that too. When someone told him that God did not create the earth, he went to check in the Bible. The Bible said "...God created the heaven and earth." Christian knew what the Bible said was true. He was glad to know God had created the earth and him. It made Christian feel special to know God made him.

Carnal was naughty. He didn't want to test things by the Bible. He thought the Bible was boring. When someone told him that he came from a monkey, he didn't check his Bible to see if it was true, he just believed them. But what they said wasn't true, and Carnal wasn't happy. He didn't feel special like Christian did. God was sad too. He wanted Carnal to know God had created the world and that Jesus had made people a special way.



DIET OF WORMS

As a child, I heard the saying, “Nobody likes me, everybody hates me. I think I’ll go eat worms.” Most of us don’t really want to eat a diet of worms even when things are going bad, but actually there is a lot that we can learn from the Diet of Worms and Reformation History. It was at the Diet that Martin

Luther’s faith was called into question as charge after charge was hurled against Luther as an enemy of the Church and the State. Yet Luther fearlessly declared, *“I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the councils, because it is clear as the day that they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture, or by the clearest reasoning,— unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted,— and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience.”* And then, looking round on this assembly before which he stood, and which held his life in its hands, he said:

“HERE I STAND, I CAN DO NO OTHER; MAY GOD HELP ME. AMEN!”



Although it seemed the world was against them (and I cannot say that they never experienced sickness), Luther and the other reformers possessed a very effective agent of health—a clear conscience. For Prov. 19:23 states, *“The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.”* According to “The Health Reformer”, *“Cheerfulness and a clear conscience are better than drugs, and will be an effective agent in your restoration to health.”* {HR, June 1, 1871 par. 9} Science is now proving that true religion, including a clear conscience, and the laws of health go hand in hand. *“Sheeni Sethi, a psychologist from Stanford University, and Martin Seligman from Univ. of Penn. studied 623 members of different sects (religious groups). They concluded that “old time religion” gives it adherents a strong mental health edge over religious liberals and unbelievers. The highest levels of optimism were linked to fundamentalists who allow religion to influence their daily life –what they eat, wear and whom they marry.”* (Guilt-free Gourmet pg. 277) No wonder Paul says, *“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”* (Acts 24:16)

Today it is widely accepted that a depressed spirit can be very detrimental to your health. Even many years ago, statistics reported in 1948 indicated that two thirds of the patients who went to a physician had symptoms caused or aggravated by mental stress. In 1955 an article describing the work of a leading authority on stress was published under the questioning title, “Stress, The Cause of All Disease?” Several diseases potentially caused by stress were mentioned including: arthritis, vomiting, diarrhea, diabetes flare ups, apoplexy, blindness, toxic goiters, bleeding ulcers, etc. [Source: None of These Diseases, pg. 58,91] The scriptures also teach that depression of mind contributes to ill health, *“A [joyful*] heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”* Prov. 15:13 KJV *[1587 Geneva Bible] (See also Prov. 17:22)

So what can we learn from the reformers about how to deal with stress and maintain the cheerfulness necessary for good health? While many of the reformers apparently lost everything, their trust in God remained firm. Martin Luther wrote, *“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”* Today we recognize that the peace of mind received from trust in something outside of ourselves has many health benefits simply by lowering stress levels. For example, *“A study published in Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association found that women 50 and older who are optimistic are less likely to get heart disease and die of any cause in a given period compared to women their age who are more pessimistic.”* (Cleveland Clinic—Heart Advisor, Oct. 2009) Studies also show that optimists were less likely to have diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. The scriptures suggest that those who trust will have lower stress levels and more optimism. *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”.* (Isaiah 26:3) In 2 Cor. 4:8,9 we see that the Bible promises and genuine religion are an aid in handling, though not a denial of, normally stressful situations. *“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;”*

Even in the midst of persecution, God’s people have had another method for maintaining cheerfulness—they had aim and purpose in life. It is almost impossible to maintain cheerfulness with no aim in life. But from Wycliffe and Huss to Luther and Zinzendorf, each drew from the Bible a decided aim—an aim to spread truth to others, fulfilling the great commission (Mark 16:15), and a desire to glorify God.

They believed that *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”* 1 Cor. 10:31

The following is good health advice. *“Have an aim in life while you do live. Gather sunshine about you instead of clouds. Seek to be a fresh, beautiful flower in God’s garden, imparting fragrance to all around you. Do this, and you will not die a whit sooner; but you will surely shorten your days by unhappy complainings.”* {My Life Today 177.4} Why not have an aim for your life too?

And next time life feeds you a “Diet of Worms,” remember that trust in God, maintaining a clear conscience, and having a purpose for your life are vital to a “Reformation of Health”.

Study to Show Thyself Approved—Protesting and Exposing Sips from the Cup of Babylon

When Luther began his opposition to the Papal Church, it was first over the doctrine of indulgences, but the Protestant Reformation covered much more than that. As he studied the Bible, Luther was convicted that more and more abuses and false doctrines were being taught to sincere people by the Roman Catholic system. Using the Bible as his foundation (Sola Scriptura) he began to expose and protest against those false doctrines—Making him a **PROTESTANT**. Today God's people, by exposing biblically unsound teachings, still desire to "break the bands" that hold many innocent people in ignorance of the word of God. The Protest is NOT over! Let's compare the infallible Word of God with a few of these corrupt doctrines that make up the 'Wine of Babylon' (Jer. 51:7, Rev. 14:8, Rev. 17:4).

1. The first "sip" from the wine cup of Babylon is the teaching that bases people's faith in "Traditions" and the "teachings of the church" instead of the "Bible". **The Roman Church says:** *"We must, therefore, conclude that the Scriptures alone cannot be a sufficient guide and rule of faith because they cannot, at any time, be within the reach of every inquirer; because they are not of themselves clear and intelligible even in matters of the highest importance, and because they do not contain all the truths necessary for salvation."*¹

But the word of God says in 2 Timothy 3:15-17: *"And that from a _____ thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee _____ through faith which is in Christ Jesus. _____ scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be _____, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* And in Mark 7:9 and Matt. 15:9 God's Word tells us: *"And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own _____."* (Mark 7:9) *"But _____ they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* (Matt. 15:9)

2. The second "sip" from the wine cup of Babylon is the teaching of the Mass & Eucharist. Rome believes that her priests have the ability to call Jesus down from heaven and re-crucify Him in the form of a wafer. **Rome says:** *"The Sacrifice of the Mass is identical with that of the cross, both having the same victim and High Priest - Jesus Christ."*² *"The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: 'The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross...'"*³

But the Word of God is very clear in Hebrews 7:27: *"Who needeth _____, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did _____, when he offered up himself."* And in Hebrews 10:10-12 God specifies that: *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ _____. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never _____: But this man, after he had offered _____ sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"*

3. The third "sip" from the wine cup of Babylon is the worshipping of images. The Catholic Church has thought *"to change times and laws"* (Dan. 7:25) and they have removed the 2nd Commandment from the Law of God. In order to promote their veneration of the images of their saints and apostles, they lump the aspects of the 2nd Commandment into the details of the 1st Commandment and **Rome claims:** *"The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols."*⁴

But God's Law specifically declares in the 2nd Commandment found in Exodus 20:4-6: *"Thou shalt not make unto thee _____...Thou shalt not _____ thyself to them, nor serve them:..."* And in Isaiah 42:8 God says, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven _____."

4. The fourth "sip" from the wine cup of Babylon is the belief in the immortality of the soul. Rome teaches that the human "soul" is "immortal". **Rome says:** *"The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God - it is not 'produced' by the parents - and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death..."*⁵

But the Word of God very clearly contradicts that belief! We are told in Romans 3:23: *"For all have _____..."* and Ezekiel 18:20 states that: *"The soul that sinneth, it shall _____..."* 1 Timothy 6:16 speaks of God as the One, *"Who _____ hath immortality..."* Romans 2:7 tells us what the righteous are seeking for. *"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and _____, eternal life."*

And 1 Corinthians 15:52-55 tells us that immortality is a gift from God that is given to the righteous at the 2nd Coming of Christ. *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised _____, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on _____. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on _____, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

5. Another "sip" from the wine cup of Babylon is the veneration of Mary. **Rome says:** *"The Blessed Virgin is invoked in the church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix."*⁶

Jesus himself exposed this doctrine, for when given occasion, He did not exalt His mother to the level of God: Luke 11:27,28 says: *"And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the _____ of God, and keep it."* Mark 3:31-35 says: *"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the _____ of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."*