

America's Promise Ministries Newsletter



February/March 2012

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Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. They mean so very much to all of us. Please keep your helpful comments coming!

**America's Promise Ministries
PO Box 157
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-265-5405 amprom.org**

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America's Promise

Ministries Newsletter

February/March 2012

Pastor Dave Barley

Founder: Pastor Sheldon Emry



2012 SUMMER CONFERENCE

The dates for this year's conference are **AUGUST 3-5, 2012**. Mark your calendar and start making plans on attending this special fellowship of Christian Israel believers. The teachers and ministers at this conference are: **Dave Barley** (Idaho), **Martha Barley** (Idaho), **Doug Evers** (Wisconsin), **J. V. Foster** (Texas), **Richard Kirsch** (Washington), **Thomas Rolland** (Texas), and **Ernestine Young** (Idaho). Please consider sending your sons, daughters, or grandchildren!

Here is a list of nearby motels that are good clean places to stay:

- 1) **HOWARD JOHNSON PONDERAY**, 477255 Highway 95 North Ponderay ID 83852. Phone: (208) 263-5383, The price they are quoting for America's Promise Ministries guest is: \$57.99+Tax per night. (Room rate – 8/2/2012 Thurs – 8/6/2012 Sun). Rooms with two beds are limited. hojoinnsandpoint@yahoo.com.
- 2) **DAYS INN**, 363 Bonner Mall Way, Ponderay, ID., 83852, (208) 263-1222, (Tell them you are from America's Promise Ministries and get the following rates 1 King or queen - \$55.00, 2 Queens - \$65.00, or 1 King w/Jacuzzi - \$75.00)-

Includes breakfast. www.DaysInnSandpoint.com

- 3) **GUESTHOUSE LODGE**, 476841 Highway 95 North, Sandpoint, ID 83852 (208) 263-2210, Email: guesthousesandpoint@gmail.com. Very nice room for special price of: \$89.00 for 2 Queen beds, or 1 Queen bed for \$85.99 (let them know you are from America's Promise Ministries), Includes breakfast.
- 4) **K-2 INN**, 501 N. 4th Ave Sandpoint, (208) 265-5896. Call for room rates.
- 5) **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**, 477326 Hwy 95 N. Ponderay ID, (208) 255-4500. This place is more expensive but very nice. People brag about their breakfast, and they have a nice indoor swimming pool. Call for room rates.
- 6) **LA QUINTA**, 415 Cedar Street, Sandpoint, (208)263-5896. Call for room rates.
- 7) **QUALITY INN**, 807 N. 5th Ave Sandpoint, (208) 263-2111. This place also has a large indoor swimming pool, and is located next to a restaurant. Call for room rates.

All room reservations are your responsibility. You may be able to get better room rates with your own discounts. We do have a few RV and tent sites on our property. Call or write for availability.

Please keep this conference in your prayers and your financial support is especially appreciated in these lean economic times.

A STUDY IN HEBREWS (Part Five)

Hebrews 4:1

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

The meat of the Word of God is the spiritual illumination, the light and truth that we gain from that Word. It is this spiritual illumination that lifts us up and gives us the sustaining power to withstand difficult times in our lives and to make the necessary corrections and decisions when faced with various choices. As Christians, we are called to go down the straight and narrow path. We will fail from time to time. We are going to make mistakes, but let us not focus on our shortcomings and failures. It is far more beneficial and rewarding that we focus on the promises of God and the fact that all is accomplished in Jesus Christ, and what He completed upon the cross. This is the light given and the light that fills us as we seek the Kingdom of God.

We gain grace and peace if we walk in the light and when we make the right choices. From the right choices, we gain the joy promised when we walk in this spiritual light with Him.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God spoke to the darkness, and He said, *“Let there be light.”* This light is far more encompassing and powerful than what we understand it to be. There is a tremendous amount of light in the Book of Hebrews. It is divine God-knowledge for each of us that will fill our hearts.

WHAT FEAR?

Notice in the beginning of this chapter that He says, *“let us therefore fear....”* A fear of what? Of coming short of His rest. Many people have not entered into His rest. Entering into His rest is what will make the difference in the days ahead when trouble, tribulation, and persecution come against you in ways you cannot foresee at this moment.

We all like to think that we are powerful and invincible. It is easy to think that as long as your life is going along smoothly. However, when all hell breaks loose, what are you going to do? That is why you need the state of rest that is spoken of here, and you need to have “fear” as verse one stated if you do not have this rest. This word “fear” means to be in “awe, or reverence.” We need to reverence with a holy respect, “HIS REST,” by entering His rest. The only person who can give you this rest is Jesus Christ. That is one of the most important lessons we all need to learn. Whether you have been a Christian for many years or are just a babe in Christ, there is meat for you in this instruction.

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Those words are not all that difficult to understand. You need to have faith in order to grow as a Christian. Some people just want to hear the Word preached by someone else once a week, and they do not mix faith with that Word. You do not get results when you approach it that way. Your preacher cannot give you that faith just as he cannot give you that rest. It takes a work of the Holy Spirit to give you that faith, but you have to make the effort to appropriate faith in your life

and spiritual walk. It is very clear that many in Israel did not progress because they did not invoke faith in their walk.

When the children of Israel were entering the Promised Land, we know of Joshua and Caleb and the tremendous faith that they acted upon. They stood fast with Yahweh and reported to Moses and the people that they could go into that Land, conquer its inhabitants, and inherit the kingdom. They had faith that their God was more than able to accomplish it for the whole nation of Israel.

It would be interesting to discover what doors were closed to Israel down through the ages because they lacked faith.

End-time regathered Israel, found today in the Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Germanic and kindred people, has a gigantic wall in front of her. She has a massive, ungodly government. She has a massive, ungodly tax system. She has massive alien problems. She has massive health problems, massive immorality, massive homosexual practices – you name it, she has it. We can see this huge wall of darkness confronting us, and we wonder, “My God, how can we ever overcome this? There are giants in the land.” Israel cannot, by the strength of her own flesh, her own carnal hands, tear down this wall of darkness. Have heart, friends, God Almighty is more than capable of tearing down this wall of darkness. The Word of God tells us that He is the victor. It is not man.

It is a matter of perspective, a matter of being able to see ahead and see the situation through the eyes of our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “It is finished.” It is up to us to believe those words, “It is finished.” To Him,

it is already an accomplished fact.

However, to many of us, it is not finished. We do not see it that way. We look through the natural eyes, the eyes of the flesh, and we see the giants. By doing so, we miss the big picture, and what is more, we ignore the Arm of God and His power. There is no inspiration in your life if you look at things through the natural eye. When you can see beyond and are looking at the world around you – especially the giants – and you mix faith with that outlook, people will see something different in you. They will think you are a little bit strange because you have the faith and the rest that accompanies that faith. You are not going around wringing your hands crying, **“The devil is winning, and we gotta do something.”** You are standing tall in the midst of the storm, and they look at you and wonder.

Natural man sees only what is in front of him now, whereas God Almighty has already planned the beginning and the end. He is not constrained by time as we are or by laws that we have in effect today. Adamic man must see beyond the traditions of men, many of which are mere barriers blocking his vision. If we really had the eyes to see, the ears to hear, and a heart open for truth, we would have the right faith through which we could enter His (Christ's) rest. Sadly, most Christians are ignorant of the fact that the media, government, the courts, the social norms and values, our economic policies and yes, certainly even most of our religious institutes conspire together, if in nothing else but that they all drink from the same cup of Babylon's intoxicating wine.

COMING INTO HIS REST

Judgment begins in the house of God; it begins right

here with you and me. Don't be waiting for some great hero to appear on the scene to change things. The secret hidden in the Word of God is that "Christ in you, the hope of glory," must be duplicated. The enemy does not want us to gain this hope of glory and to be about our Father's business. We have been called to a great work, and it is understanding that work and walking in that work, that special calling in each and every one of us that we must come to comprehend. Even in our tithes and offerings, those who have not entered into His Rest cannot give as unto the Lord and have peace in this giving that is part of blessed worship.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Most Christians are ignorant of the fact that the Gospel was preached to Israel, the Covenant People. God through the Apostle Paul is referring back to Israel of old who did not have the faith needed to enter into the Promised Land when Joshua and Caleb returned with their report. Paul is telling his readers that those early Israelites did not progress, and he is telling them why. They did not have an abiding faith in God Almighty and His Covenant Word, and they did not enter into His rest.

Hebrews 4:3-12

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he

said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

SPIRITUAL SABBATH SEGREGATION

The Word of God can come into us and be a Comforter. It can also be sharper than any two-edged sword to divide our Adamic soul (mind) and spirit (Mind of Christ). The Word of God can be likened to spiritual segregation. It causes division, it causes separation, and it causes righteous clarification within our lives. Nevertheless, when the sanctification process is over, it is so powerful that it brings revelation back together to form a new man.

It is this new man that we are to become. It is the Christ within you that He is building. It is within this

company of newly formed men that the Kingdom of God is going to be formed. The Kingdom of God is being formed within you among the brethren. But we have not come into our Sabbath, our rest, according to Scripture.

Coming into our rest is the meat of Hebrews, Chapter 4. The rest accompanies the theme of God's priesthood. The priests of the Old Covenant were responsible for delivering God's Word to Israel, but the priests did not do their job properly. Jesus Christ our High Priest and King after the order of Melchizedek came to His Covenant people and call them back into the bonds of a New Covenant.

We need a new conscience in order for us to enter into His rest. Our old conscience (old Adamic nature) will never give us true rest. We need to be a new creation filled with Light (Divine illumination). Verse 6 tells us that it was first preached – what was first preached?– *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* Let us turn to John, Chapter 1:

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Remember when I spoke of the light coming into the darkness? It is that light of righteousness which gives God's people the power over darkness. It is the darkness (meaning, the carnal unregenerate fleshly mind of enmity that is aiding and abetting every work of

the flesh in open rebellion against Christ and His Kingdom) which greatly increases the power of the anti-Christ, and they use this power of darkness to war with us today. The reason they have been so successful is because our light of Biblical reasoning has been short-circuited by a corrupting knowledge of good and evil that has been presented as light, with great emotional appeal. We need a Christ in you and me newness of life to combat the forces of darkness. His Light is power and the source. His Light is the very essence of all things created. It is light that came into the darkness that started this process, and it is the light that is going to bring us out of this darkness.

Verse 5 tells us that “the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Remember Jesus said that the enemy would not comprehend them if they were WORD Christians and following His Truth. We read in John 15:18-19.

John 15:18-19

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Realize that Jesus came as Word Light, Law Light, Spiritual Light, Sacrificial Light, and Redemptive Light, full of Grace and Truth, and yet, the world hated Him.

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Now we have Holy Spirit assistance to behold His

Light. When you read this, it should excite and stir your heart. We need to behold His glory. That glory may be missing from your life. This world hates His glory. It is His glory that needs to be preached.

The Pharisees thought they had put out that glory when they hung Him on the cross. When He said, "*It is finished,*" the world comprehended that not. They still do not understand. It is imputively over. We see only an unfinished kingdom, but that is only with the natural mind. The spiritual mind of Christ sees it differently. It is all just a matter of what heaven (level) of revelation our spiritual understanding is mature enough to comprehend. That is how the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter could sing when they were in prison. They looked at the situation totally different than most Christians for the Kingdom was within them.

The Word is where we find our rest. Resting in His Word, in His promises, in the Covenants. What is this rest? It is inner peace because we know God's promises. That is part of it. To understand this, let us look at Isaiah 26:

Isaiah 26:2-4

Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

There are people out there who will just not open up to the truth, and the truth has not entered into them. God Almighty will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Him.

Psalm 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin

against thee.

The Word, could be thought of as a creative power (Divine frequency) of life that we are to live, move, and have our being in, that also involves law abiding. Some Christians think that being more spiritual means that they are free from God's laws, free to do their own thing, free by Grace to individually be free of Biblical rules, or principles without input or Kingdom direction upon nation or community. Nonsense! As Christ impacted the world by His Light, so are we commanded to do. Did not Jesus declare in Matthew 5:14-19 these essential truths that we are to follow?

Matthew 5:14-19

*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on **an** hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

When we enter into His government, we are entering into His rest. Jesus Christ very clearly told us: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) We need things added unto us. We learn to enter into His presence with praise and thanksgiving when we

spiritually mature enough to enter into His kingdom and seek His righteousness. Jesus will add many gifts and callings upon us commensurate with our level of spiritual growth and vision. However, for this to happen, something must change within us. There must be a spiritual change that alters the carnal mind. Through this, we will gain newness of vision that must connect with the Body of Christ that one glorious day will move as directed by the mind of Christ, and then my friend we will see mountains moved and earthly powers shaken.

There will be a new heaven and new earth. One thing we know from the Word of God is that this change will come at the Sabbath. Part of Sabbath keeping is entering into His rest. Man has basically six days, or six thousand years of time, and then we enter into the seventh day of rest. That seventh day is the Kingdom of God. The holy days, or the feast days, involve God's people coming together to a place of rest. This rest also means separation - separating us from worldly influences, coming together - with the goal of becoming of one mind and one accord, learning Biblical Truth, letting His light illuminate us, and growing spiritually.

The covenants become a greater part of this picture when we begin recognizing that we are Israel, that the Feast Days are important, that Sabbath observance strengthens and rejuvenates each of us spiritually. The Feast Days are Sabbaths, and they are vital to our growing spiritually. We must begin acquainting ourselves again with the very ingredients that are needed to become a part of this special priesthood and government that God Almighty has called us to. The Body of Christ has a very important and vital role in entering into the Kingdom of God.

What did the Israelites do during the Feast Days? They ***became reacquainted*** with God's laws and blessings. Observing the Feast Days and a regular time of worship will help build our people. It will help restore our families and faith in Yahweh. The tares we see about us today want to keep us from understanding the importance of God's Sabbaths.

We must not let the world rob us of our spiritual, moral, and social strength of character. There is a social structure we are to have as Christian people to strengthen us corporately. The Feast Days take us back to our Israelite roots. They provide us a powerful formula for entering into His rest, which is synonymous with "Sabbath."

This rest has to do with setting us apart unto Yahweh and being sanctified by God in a dying to self process, in which we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Sabbath is putting off the unbiblical cares and things of this world. We are burdened down by the things of this world, are we not? Therefore, true Biblical Sabbath is separating ourselves from the idols (worldly lure) of this world and doing as the Bible requires "***come out of her my people and be not partakers of her sins.***"

(Revelation 18:4)

Verse 4, especially, takes us back to the Feast of Tabernacles and the rest that awaits His called out and chosen people. Tabernacles is to be duplicated within each of us. It is a very significant time of worship. Tabernacles was a time of restoration. There is a restoration process that is to be brought about in this New Covenant process that we are reading about here in 2 Corinthians and is repeated in Romans 8.

Romans 8:10-11

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Apostle Paul is talking about a spiritual change that is coming upon these mortal bodies. It is a light and darkness and life and death process that is before us.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Notice that it says, "*Here is the patience of the saints,*" meaning, "Here is the Sabbath/rest of the saints." To enter this rest means keeping the commandments of God and (I stress "and") the faith of Jesus. Keeping the commandments without faith of Jesus is dead and fruitless. We are to have the faith of Jesus Christ. We must keep the commandments, works, and mix those works with the faith of Jesus Christ. In other words, you

must have faith plus the lifestyle that we have been called to.

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Rest is for those who die to self by the leading of the Holy Spirit which involves His laws being written in our heart by the Lord.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

This is not a condemnation of God's laws being too burdensome, but it is a condemnation of those who "labour" apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, including those who may believe that their works alone will save them. Remember, we are not reading out of the Old Covenant, but the New. Some "Grace only" people view God's laws as burdensome and that there is no "rest" in them. They are deceived. The truth is, there is no rest for God's people if they do not keep God's laws. Can you imagine living a life void of God's laws?

THERE WOULD BE NO REST.

Jesus is saying that you must come unto Him, and when you do, you will receive rest and a newness of life.

We are vessels that must be filled. The Bible speaks of vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. We are

vessels of honor if we honor the Lord Jesus Christ by being faithful to His Word, and we have love one for another, and this can only happen if we respect and obey God's laws. Murder, rape, theft, lying, hurting one another, living idolatrously, and promiscuously all contribute to our personal and national demise.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

We are to be conformed into His image and His likeness. We are to be like Him, and He is doing the conforming. And believe it or not, this is why race is so important. Israelites are of the same race as Jesus Christ, who is our Kinsman Redeemer. We are of the same stock as Jesus Christ. This is a special relationship, and very few people really understand this. Why is the Israel message so important? It is tremendously important because we are His racial brethren. We are of the same flesh and blood. There is a family here of God's calling and choosing and He did not call His people to be mixed spiritually or physically. You must have this understanding. Within this family, there is a very special relationship. Remember the story of the Prodigal Son. One day this son came to understand how much his family meant to him. He came home, and what did that son do? He entered into his father's rest.

The time is coming for many of our Israelite brethren when they will return home and enter into His rest. Resting from rebellion and all their hope in the things of this world. A lot of people have put a lot of their substance, a lot of their efforts into the things of this world. They have wasted a lot of time just like the

Prodigal Son. The kingdom of darkness does not want Israel to come home; they do not want Israel to awaken.

Tabernacles played a very important part in awakening our people to this. The enemy has taken our Sabbaths away in order to keep us in darkness. The way we come out of that is to enter into His rest.

In summation of this chapter, let me just say that there are some very important components to our entering into His rest found within the Book of Hebrews. Three of those components are our faith, observing the Sabbaths (including the Feast Days), and learning of our priesthood. We need to fully understand the ramifications of the Feast of Tabernacles and our duties as priests. When we come to fully understand these elements, we will have an increased appreciation of our Israelite origin and heritage.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave Barley

**"Thank you for your newsletters. I always appreciate your unique way of combining current events in relation to prophecy and Israel Identity with solid Bible Studies that are aimed at spiritual growth and deeper faith. You truly have a Pastor's Heart."
D. S.**

If you want to receive our weekly, Bible studies services. Ask to be added to CD or DVD ministry. Four sermons are mailed monthly



DOES GOD'S WORD COVER QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH AND IN GOVERNMENT? **YES!**

Pastor J.V. Foster, Ph.D.

Too long we have not qualified a standard of excellence for holding positions of leadership. Whether it is in the church or in the secular world, those in leadership positions should be required to meet a standard that expresses moral, spiritual, physical, and financial integrity. Where better to get an opinion on this subject than from sixty-six books called the Bible? The Bible is specific about a clear conscience and personal integrity. (Psa. 24:4; Prov. 20:11; Prov. 30:12; I Tim. 3:9; I Tim. 5:22; Titus 1:15; Jas. 1:27.)

MORALITY...

So many people in the media, business, religious, and political, say that whatever someone does in private is their own business, and should not be aired in the public. I believe that is Biblical and true...however...once an individual steps into a position of authority and is paid by the public, their private life becomes an open season. This is one of the reasons that all through our life, we should maintain a moral lifestyle. You never know when you will be offered a job supported by the public till. If you want total privacy, stay out of office, stay out of the pulpit, and stay off of the public tax dollar.

HOSPITABLE...

Leaders are expected to be hospitable, courteous to visitors and strangers and non-judgmental. I Peter. 4:9 *“Use hospitality one to another without grudging.”*

HEALTHY...

Leaders should be healthy enough to carry out their

leadership responsibilities according to Exodus 18:21: *"Able men such as fear God,"*

TRUTHFUL...

Leaders should be men and women of truth, no matter who the truth hurts or helps according to Exodus 18:21: ...*"men of truth,"*

NON-COVETING...

Leaders should be men and women that are not motivated by greed according to Exodus 18:21: ...*"hating covetousness..."*

FULL OF WISDOM...

(Wisdom=an anointed mind/common sense) Leaders should be old enough to demonstrate wisdom rather than impulsive thinking or decision making according to Deuteronomy 1:13: *"Wise, discerning, and experienced."*

SERIOUS MINDED...

Leaders should be mature enough to know when it is time to laugh, and when it is time to be serious according to 1 Timothy 3:8-9: *"Grave,"*

NOT A BUSYBODY...

Leaders should never be part of a gossip oration saying one thing to some and something different to others according to 1 Timothy 3:8-9: ...*"not double-tongued,"*

NOT A DRUNKARD...

Leaders should not be addicted to strong drink according to 1 Timothy 3:8-9: ...*"not given to much wine,"*

NOT GREEDY...

Leaders should not be bound by greed where their every motive is gaining wealth and power according to 1 Timothy 3:8-9: ...*"not greedy of filthy lucre"*

TREASURING THE GOSPEL...

Leaders should have a genuine love for Jesus, and a life that is in harmony with what pleases Christ according to 1 Timothy 3:8-9: ...*"holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience."* (According to verse 10, they are to have a "proven lifestyle" in these virtues.)

NOT A BIGAMIST...

(I.e. polygamist) Leaders should not have multiple-relationships, but should have one wife of their youth according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"blameless, the husband of one wife,"*

NOT A QUITTER...

Leaders should have the integrity of finishing what they start according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"vigilant"*

FAIR MINDED...

Leaders should always consider both sides or all sides of any issue before rendering a decision according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 ... *"sober"*

WELL MANNERED...

Leaders should be well groomed enough that in any environment they know how to act in a manner that pleases Jesus and blesses others according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"of good behavior"*

A TEACHER'S HEART...

Leaders should have the ability to teach according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"apt to teach"*

NON COMBATIVE SPIRIT...

Leaders should not have a combative or fighting spirit according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"no striker"*

PATIENCE...

Leaders must demonstrate patience in all occasions according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"but patient"*

NOT A RIOTER...

Leaders can not be part of rioting and street fighting according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"not a brawler"*

FINAL AUTHORITY IN ONE'S HOUSE...

Leaders must be in control of their own household, ruling in harmony with Biblical principles according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"One that ruleth well his own house"*

RESPECTED & HONORED BY CHILDREN...

Leaders should not be ruled by their children, but have control over their children grooming them to be obedient, courteous, kind, faithful to God, family, and country according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"having his children in subjection with all gravity"* (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

EXPERIENCED IN HIS CALLING...

Leaders should be qualified in the duties and responsibilities of that particular leadership according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"Not a novice"* lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

RESPECTED BY PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OR GOVERNMENT...

Leaders should function in a way that brings honor and respect to them by anyone and everyone according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7: ... *"a good report of them which are without"* lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

ADDED TO THOSE QUALITIES...

They must show evidence of Christian ethics in daily practice such as: Tit 1:8 ...*"a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate"*

OF AGE...

Leaders should be of a sufficient age that their age demands a certain amount of respect from the public according to Numbers 8:24-26: "...*Not under the age of 25 years...*"

GOVERNMENT...

What kind of government on the federal, state, and local level would we have if all our public servants, including pastors and ministers met the above criteria?

More than that, what kind of world would it be like if all people everywhere kept the Ten Commandments?

Biblical law, although some Old Testament laws would not be applicable to modern times, would create an atmosphere of individual responsibility and accountability, which is what our Constitution did in the beginning of this great nation.

Our Founding Fathers did not mean for our nation to be a nation without God as a guideline for our moral conscience. They didn't want a national church to be formed, but separation of God from government was never their intent. If it was, it would have been in the Constitution.

Part of the blame for America's condition is laid at the feet of the pulpits that have watered down Scripture to fit the tickling ears of the public who want absolute freedom, which is impossible. A nation of law such as America has to make a decision. Whose law do we embrace, God's or man's? I choose God's law, how about you?

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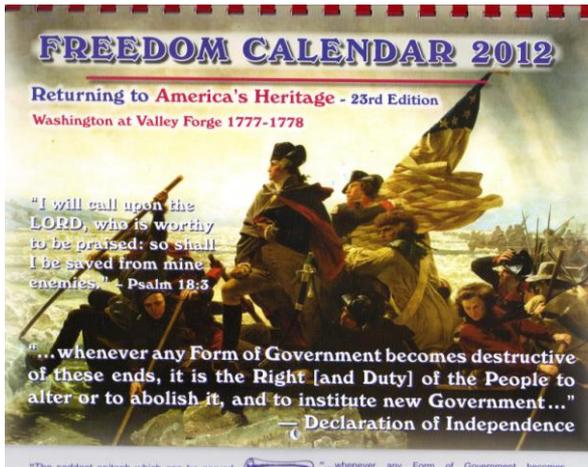
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