



# Nobility

**“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica,  
in that they received the word with all readiness of mind,  
and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”  
— Acts 17:11**

## *When You Die, Where Will You Spend Eternity?*

The importance of this question should not be underestimated. There are questions which are obviously unimportant, but this is not one of them. ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Notice within this question, death is assumed. It is not a matter of **if** we will die. It is a matter of **when** we will die. Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” God has given each one of us an assignment of death, and no matter how we try to avoid it, it will ultimately come upon us. ***So, when you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Also assumed within this question is the belief that there is life after death. To some people, this is a contradiction. They think death is the end of life, and therefore how could there be life after death? However by far, most people believe our existence does not end with death. In actuality, death is not the end of life. Death is separation. Physical death is the separation of the spirit and body of man. James wrote, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). Likewise, spiritual death is being separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). When we pass through physical death, we go from the physical/material world into the spiritual realm of life. With these thoughts in mind, the importance of our question once again comes to light. ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Furthermore, our important question encompasses thoughts about the temporal. This physical/material realm in which we are currently living is a temporal existence. God did not design it to be eternal. It was created to be destroyed. This is true with reference to our bodies as well as the material universe. At the second coming of Jesus, all who are in the grave shall come forth either unto the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29). During this great resurrection, a great change will take place. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53). The corruptible and mortal is our physical existence in which the body decays and is death-bound. Thus, our physical bodies were never intended to be eternal, and at the second coming of Christ, they will be changed to an incorruptible and immortal body. Also, concerning the material universe, Peter wrote, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). In this passage, the earth is the planet on which we live, and heavens is our atmosphere. Thus, our universe will pass away, melt, and be burned up. In the very next verse, Peter makes some direct application of

this concept with a most penetrating question. He asked, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11)? In consideration of these thoughts, we again ask, ***when you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Finally, our important question encompasses thoughts about eternity. As we have previously noted, this physical/material realm in which we are currently living is temporal, but the spiritual realm is eternal. Once a person enters into eternity, he or she will ever be in that realm. There is no returning to this physical/material realm. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), the rich man was in torments and wanted Lazarus to return to this realm in order to warn his five brothers of the place of torment. However, “Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Luke 16:29). The time of warning is in this life, and God’s inspired word serves that purpose. Abraham goes on to explain, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31). In other words, if a person will not listen to God’s word which He delivered through His prophets, he or she will not be persuaded by someone who has been raised from the dead. Are you listening? ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Which is more important: the temporal or the eternal? If you are reading this, then you probably know the right answer, but is the right answer your answer, and is it your real answer? The real answer is not necessarily in your words. It is in your actions. Where do you spend most of your efforts, your wealth, and your time? Do you use these in various earthly pursuits or do you use them in preparation for the spiritual realm? Look at your life! Are you honestly preparing for eternity? ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

If we can help you in your spiritual pursuits, please let us know.  
**Chuck Northrop, Conway, AR**

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# God's Plan of Redemption

To say "God's plan" is to acknowledge that redemption is not an afterthought but a well-planned and well-executed work of deity. Furthermore, it shows us that God has a plan that needs to be followed. We also understand that the idea of "redemption" makes it clear that we are not talking about being rescued from the slums of Chicago or Cairo. Redemption is salvation from our sins.

From the time sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:15), God spoke of redemption. We see His plan in the Promises of Redemption (Genesis 3:15; 22:18; 1 Samuel 7), in the Prophecies of Redemption (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Daniel 9), in the Psalms (songs) of Redemption (Psalm 41:9; 22:1; 16; 110), and in the Prefigurations (typology-pictures) of Redemption. The shadow/image figure is easy to see (Hebrews 10:1). Though slightly different, another "significant kind of symbolic representation which is pervasive in Scripture is known as 'types.' ...A type is an Old Testament institution, event, ceremony, object, or person that God specifically designed to serve as predictive prefiguration (types) of [matters] yet to be revealed."

The Brazen Serpent is a clear portrayal of Christ's crucifixion for our sins. Jesus said, "But as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14,15; Numbers 21). Israel's sin foreshadowed the sinner's sin. The venomous bite foreshadowed sin's destructiveness. Israel's death foreshadowed the sinner's eternal death. Lifting up of the

serpent foreshadowed Jesus' being lifted up on the cross. The looking by the believer foreshadowed the trusting obedience of the sinner. Though different, our looking is as necessary for our redemption as Christ's being lifted up.

Our redemption cannot be obtained by money or great and precious gifts (1 Peter 1:18-19) nor is it through conquering the world. When the Muslims in the Middle East want men and children to blow themselves up for their cause, they promise a heavenly reward. Each male martyr is assured of seventy virgins in a heavenly harem. During the Crusades, Catholics promised a reward in heaven to those who might be injured or killed in their "Holy War." Where has God sought for such? He hasn't.

Redemption is for those who give self (Matthew 16:24-25) in complete obedience (Romans 6:3-4, 16-18). We plead with you to study with us that you might know and follow Heaven's will for your salvation (John 8:24; Luke 7:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

There's a fountain free, 'tis for you and me:  
Let us haste, O haste to its brink;  
'Tis the fount of love from the Source above,  
And He bids us all freely drink.

*Ron Cosby, Liberal, KS*

## The Only Spiritual Foundation

Before we can consider what the only spiritual foundation is, we must give some definitions. The term "foundation" is the basis on which any thing is founded. "Spiritual" pertains to the nature of the spirit; relating to religion. The word "only" lets us know there is only one and any other is a fraud and should not even be considered. What we need to consider in this article is the basis for the one and only religion that will lead men to heaven so that they can be with God for eternity.

The Bible is plain concerning what the only foundation is. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Yet, it is more than just claiming Christ as our Lord. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46)? Calling on the Lord without any commitment to be obedient to His word will not help anyone go to heaven. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

The important question is, "How can we apply Christ as the foundation for our lives?" How do we make the Lord's will the basis for our religious life in a way that will be pleasing to our God? Listen to what our Lord Himself said!

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain

descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

It is very simple to make the Lord Jesus Christ the foundation for our religious life. All we have to do is pay attention to what the Lord taught and then make the application to our life! After all, it is the Lord's words that will judge us on the last day. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

The thing that makes the word of Jesus so important is where He got those words. "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (John 12:49-50).

We need to understand, as His disciples of the first century understood, that Jesus is the one with the words of eternal life. When many Jews were going away from Jesus, He asked the twelve a very import question. "Will ye also go away" (John 6:67)? Listen to Peter's answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:68-69). When we make the life, the sacrifice, and the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ the foundation for our religious life here on earth, it will lead us through the gates of heaven to be with our God and His Son for all eternity! What more could we ask?

*Jerry Dickison, Newton, KS*

## The Challenge of Living Modestly in an Immodest World

In ancient Corinth, there was a pagan temple dedicated to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Worship was offered to Aphrodite by means of a thousand **hieroduli** (sacred prostitutes). The theory was that through physical union with the **hieroduli**, one was able to achieve spiritual union with Aphrodite. For all practical purposes, they worshipped sex in the name of religion. It was not considered shameful for a Corinthian girl to dedicate her life to prostitution. In fact, some parents of noble families consecrated their daughters to such service from the time of birth.

In the introduction of his book entitled "Index of Leading Cultural Indicators," William Bennett wrote: "A disturbing and telling sign of the declining condition among the young is the result of an on-going teacher survey. Over the years teachers have been asked to identify the top problems in America's public schools. In 1940 teachers identified talking out of turn; chewing gum; making noise; running in halls; cutting in line; dress code infractions; and littering. When asked the same question in 1990, teachers identified drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault."

The problems that existed 2,000 years ago are still with us. How does the Bible address this problem? The apostle Paul said,

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

He added, "in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works" (1 Timothy 2:9,10).

There are so many challenges facing people today. The Bible tells us how to deal with these challenges and how to go to heaven. May each of us strive to live in such a way that we can be pleasing to God.

*John M. Grubb, Duluth, GA*

## Responsibility of Children to Their Parents

Children are a blessing from the Lord. The Bible says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3). God's word gives clear instruction to parents about how they should deal with their kids. In this brief article, though, we want to look at the other side of the coin: What responsibility do children have to their parents?

**FIRST, CHILDREN NEED TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS.** Surely all parents would agree this is the right thing for kids to do. But why is obedience to parents the proper course of action? Simply because God says it is! "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). It is a pleasing sight for the Lord to observe kids obeying their dad and mom: "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

**SECOND, CHILDREN NEED TO RESPECT OR HONOR THEIR PARENTS.** The Lord's message to children is, "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise" (Ephesians 6:2). Of course, the opposite of respect or honor would be to disrespect or not honor them. Kids show disrespect for their parents when they say unkind things to or about them, mock them, or when they ignore their parents' desires or advice. Children also show disrespect for their parents when they are ashamed of them for no justifiable reason. This is wise counsel: "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old" (Proverbs 23:22).

**THIRD, CHILDREN HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LOVE THEIR PARENTS.** If you have read the Bible, then you probably noticed that Jesus wants us to love our enemies, our neighbors, our children, and our spouse (if married). In fact, the New Testament teaches us that the Lord wants us to love all men. For children, that would surely include loving their own parents. It is a beautiful sight to see parents demonstrate love for their kids. It is just as touching to see their kids show genuine love in return! Those who fail to do this are "without natural affection" (2 Timothy 3:3).

**FOURTH, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, CHILDREN SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEIR PARENTS.** Due to health or financial matters that hinder aging parents, their children may need to help care for them. Children should be ready to do this, not seeing it as a burden but rather as an opportunity. The Bible says, ". . . let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God" (1 Timothy 5:4) The word "requite" means to repay. When children are young, they are on the receiving end of their parents' tender care. There may come a time in the life of a child's parents when the child will need to step up and repay his/her parents by taking care of them. This would be part of what the Bible calls a child "serving" his/her father (Philippians 2:22), or what it calls "providing" for those of our own family (1 Timothy 5:8).

A family is truly blessed that has children who conduct themselves according to the principles of the Bible. These Bible principles need to be taught and practiced far and wide.

*Roger D. Campbell, Cleveland, TN*

### God's Plan of Salvation

- A person must HEAR the saving gospel (Romans 10:17).
- A person must BELIEVE in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31).
- A person must REPENT of their sins (Luke 13:4,5).
- A person must CONFESS Christ (Matthew 10:32-33).
- A person must be IMMERSSED, baptized (Acts 2:38).
- A person must live FAITHFULLY (1 Corinthians 15:58).

*"Come now, and let us reason together..."*  
— Isaiah 1:18

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## “What Does the Bible Teach about How I as a Woman May Serve in the Church Today?”

It is not unusual for many to ask this question. Ever since (and perhaps even before) the conflicts and discussions of the Equal Rights Amendment, women protesting unfair treatment in the workplace, the “sexual revolution” which spawned the “unisex” thinking in everything from fashion to marriage, the “gay rights movements,” and

other cultural changes, men and women have been pursuing the question about what and how a woman may serve in religion. Foolish is the person who concludes that such a question is unworthy and needs not be addressed. This is a vitally important question, for if the Lord has addressed such things as women and their service to Him, then for us to ignore such instruction would be dangerous indeed.

Some, perhaps out of reaction to what they may consider untraditional, or un-American, or even sinful cultural changes, have assigned women to a totally hands-off position in religious matters. They regard women as second class or worse and do not even offer much hope in the possibilities of women going on to a “reward” after this life. This is a false and sinful attitude.

Others, likely due to their desire to be popular and in “keeping with the times” will afford women a totally free ride in every aspect of leadership in religious affairs. After all, this is America. Women are free. They are equal. They are as good as (or better than) men. There are “no holds barred,” and there ought never be any distinctions made between men and women.

In view of what the Bible teaches, both of these points of view are extreme and incorrect. What does the Bible teach about the role a woman may occupy in the work, worship, and service of the church? As always we must ask the apostle Paul’s question from Romans 4:3 “what saith the Scripture?”

Many women were regarded as important followers of our Lord while He was upon the earth (please read Luke 8:1-3). Women accompanied Jesus during His trial, crucifixion and burial (again, Luke 23-24). A woman was the first to see the risen Lord. Women were regarded as equal believers who were “added to the Lord” (meaning became members of the Lord’s church; saved; became Christians, Acts 5:14). Women were regarded as “leading members of society” or “chief women” (see Acts 13:50; 17:4; 17:12). They were even regarded as worthy to be arrested, persecuted, and tormented for the Lord’s cause (Acts 8:3; 9:2; 22:4).

What then can we learn from these few examples of how women were viewed? This is a vital point: *it is not the case that women were*

*regarded as second class citizens, nor is it true that they were never considered worthy of a chief position in the culture of that time.* Why is this important? Because the role of women in the church cannot appeal merely to **culture** to determine her place. Rather, we must appeal to the Lord’s **command**.

So again we ask: “What saith the Scripture?” The Lord commands women to profess godliness and be modest (men are to do the same, incidentally, 1 Timothy 2:10). Women are to be faithful (1 Timothy 3:11). Women are to be reverent and teachers of good things (Titus 2:3,4). Women can be of great service to the church as was Phoebe (Romans 16:1). **However**, the Lord has placed some restriction on women. They may not preach nor teach over men (1 Timothy 2:8-12), and in the public assembly of the church for worship. She is not to take a leading role nor to speak out in teaching nor prayer. She is to be silent (1 Corinthians 14:34).

Again it must be noted, the Lord’s teaching on these matters is not merely that of culture, for the culture of the first century certainly permitted women to occupy chief positions in various aspects of their society.

Let us note again the passage of 1 Timothy 2. Having just relegated men to the position of leadership in spiritual matters (such as prayer and other forms of public worship, verse 8), then reminding his women readers of their limits regarding teaching and having dominion over men (verses 11 and 12), he then explains in verses 13 and 14. The first word Paul uses is “for” which indicates he is explaining what he has just written. “Here is the reason that I write for women not to have dominion or usurp authority over men in spiritual things” says Paul. Because Adam was first formed, then Eve. What’s this? Paul’s reasoning **is not** based upon culture but **creation** and God’s ordained order of things.

Finally let us take note of Paul’s reasoning regarding women keeping silence in the churches as he wrote in 1 Corinthians 14. Note again verse 33-35: “for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, let the women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but let them be in subjection, as also saith the law. And if they would learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home: for it is shameful for a woman to speak in the church.” God has commanded this, it is not a matter of culture.

Today’s American culture says that a woman may take a leading role in about anything she may desire... even in spiritual matters. But the Lord has not so taught. Let us be content with what God has taught us. In this way, women shall be a blessing to the local congregation and viewed as precious in God’s sight. God bless you in your study of His word.

*Robin W. Haley, Reynoldsburg, OH*