

## "What is the Biggest Idol in a Christian?"

This question will provoke a lot of different responses, and a lot of different answers, but let me say clearly after many years of ministry, study, and experiences, the truth of God's Word is plain. It is FOOD!

Food was what brought all of us into sin's bondage to begin with, and God wants us to understand this! It began when Eve was tempted by Satan, deceived, in fact the scripture says "much deceived" (1 Tim. 2:14 lit. Greek), and then she gave of the forbidden fruit to her husband, and Adam willfully listened to his wife instead of the simple and plain instructions from God, and he ate. It brought the entire human race into this bondage which we call sin, and ultimately into the destruction of an eternal separation from God, which is what death is, separation; and the final state of eternal separation is called "the second death" (Rev. 20:14). The first death is when we are separated from our corruptible bodies (and from those we leave behind upon the earth), and this unfortunately comes about before the proper time, and in an improper way, usually because of what we eat.

An idol is anything that is more important to you than God! It can be anything, such as: a person, parents, husband or wife, children, possessions, position, religion, a building, an organization, a ministry, job, hobby, sex, activity or ambition. "**The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil,**" and covetousness is clearly called idolatry in the scriptures (Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5). But as strong as materialism and sex are today, and as surely as they are destroying individuals, families, congregations, ministries, and nations, food was the first idol in the human race, and it is the strongest and most prevalent.

This is true of both the saved and the unsaved, of those who know the Lord, and of those who do not! In 1 Corinthians chapter 10 we have a warning from God not to be like "our fathers" who were destroyed in various ways because of various sins which they committed. And as we look at those sins, we will find that the vast majority of them involved the lust for food! These were all believers in God, who had seen and experienced the miraculous, wondrous grace and power of God's supernatural provision, protection, and salvation, and yet with many of them God was not well pleased and He destroyed them! They were all baptized in water and the Spirit, and yet multitudes lost their lives because they would not listen to God's Word (vv. 1-5)!

I would suggest that you open your bible, and let us look more closely at the things the Israelites did that resulted in being "**overthrown in the wilderness**" (1 Cor. 10:5).

[1 Cor. 9:24 KJV] **Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. [25] And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**

[26] **I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: [27] But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:**

lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

[1 Cor. 10:1] Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; [2] And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; [3] And did all eat the same spiritual meat; [4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. [5] But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

[6] Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

[7] Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

[8] Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

[9] Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

[10] Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

[11] Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. [12] Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

[13] There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. [14] Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

[15] I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

[31] Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

[32] Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

[33] Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. [11:1] Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

First, it says that what happened to them can happen to us, that what has been written has been given to us so we will not become like them, as they are examples for us of what happens to disobedience of the kinds we are about to study. They "lusted" "after evil things." (6) "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."

What are "evil things"? We find that evil things are any "things" that we put before the Lord! It can be a good and legitimate thing when in its rightful place, under the control and Lordship of Christ, but it becomes evil when we put its importance above the importance of God and His will for us at that time! Ordinary needs of the body, like food, clothing, and shelter are important, and God has designed us to need them. But when we put them before Him, when we hold them as more important than Him, when we seek them first, then they become an idol in our lives, and then they are considered "evil things."

For example, we are taught in scripture that if we do not offer unto God our best, but only the leftovers, or that which we do not care for anyway, it is evil!

**[Mal. 1:8] And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.**

And when Abel offered unto God the work of his hands, the first fruits of his labor, and the fat, which meant the best, his offering was accepted. But when Cain offered unto God the work of his hands, legitimately so, but not the first fruits, and not his best, his offering was unaccepted, and God rejected him.

**[Gen. 4:1] And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. [2] And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.**

**[3] And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. [4] And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: [5] But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.**

**[Heb. 11:4] By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**

**[1 Jn. 3:12] Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.**

Another example of how a thing could be good but becomes evil because the will of the Lord is not sought concerning the matter, is given to us by James.

**[Jam. 4:13 NAS] Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." [14] Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. [15] Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." [16] But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. [17] Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

You see, we do not know the future, we do not know what is best for us. So when we act without seeking the Lord to determine if it is His will, we are boasting that we know what is good, that we are assured of tomorrow, and that is arrogance, evil, and sin!

Another example of lusting even after what is normally God's good provisions was referred to here by Paul when the Israelites lusted after the foods

they were accustomed to in Egypt from where they had come, been born and reared (Num. 11:4-34). They lusted after flesh food, fish, and vegetables; and God became angry and smote them with a "very great plague" and many died and were buried. We read:

**[Num. 11:4 KJV] And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? [5] We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: [6] But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.**

And so God brought so many quails to eat and had them fall at their feet that they were three feet deep on the ground.

**[Num. 11:33 KJV] And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. [34] And he called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah [Heb.: graves of craving, lust, desire]: because there they buried the people that lusted.**

This lusting after food is again referred to in the Psalms where we read:

**[Psa. 106:13 KJV] They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: [14] But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. [15] And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.**

Now, let us go on with Paul's warnings to the Corinthians, and to us.

Paul started this exhortation by sharing that this life is like a race, and like boxing, in which we as the contestants in order to win must bring our bodies under subjection to the Spirit, under self-control:

**[1 Cor. 9:24 NAS] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. [25] And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27] but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.**

Then after explaining to us that although all the Israelites had been baptized in water and the Spirit, had been drinking of the Spirit, they afterward lusted after evil things (food), and were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now Paul brings us to more specific examples of what lusting, or craving, after evil things meant, and we shall see that almost all of them again involved the lust for foods.

**[1 Cor. 10:7 NAS] And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."**

Here we find the report first involved idolatry, the making of the golden calf after Moses had gone up into Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments and had not returned fast enough for their desires (Ex. 32:1-4). Then they started to party, and this involved eating and drinking and indulging themselves (32:5-6). This was accompanied with the singing and dancing of pleasure and entertainment more than the joy of the true worship of God (32:18-19). They were "**out of control**" (32:25 NAS)!

Beloved, let us forsake all idolatry, putting anything before the Lord, judging anything as so important that we seek it without consulting our Lord and Master, "**whose we are**"!

**[1 Cor. 10:8 NAS] Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.**

This next lust they fell into was the lust of sexual sin, but it also involved the idolatry of eating and false worship for we read:

**[Num. 25:1 KJV] And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. [2] And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. [3] And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.**

Consequently, God had Moses and the judges of Israel take the leaders of this wickedness and "**execute them in broad daylight before the Lord**" (v. 4); and many thousands of others died in this plague also (v. 9). This was uncleanness and fornication, adultery for some. It could have resulted in homosexuality also, and often does when the satisfaction of more normal types of sexual indulgence becomes not enough, but fornication in all its forms is sin. Whether heterosexual, or homosexual, whether normal or abnormal perversions, fornication is so common today, even being excused, and promoted in liberal circles where adherence to the Word of God has been neglected, denied, or perverted.

**[1 Cor. 10:9 NAS] Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.**

Here we find that familiar story which Christ referred to as a type of Himself being lifted up on the cross to save all people (Jn. 3:14-15).

But what caused this incident? Let's find out.

When the people had become "**discouraged [impatient NAS] because of the way**" [5] "**the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. [6] And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.**

[7] Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. [9] And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Num. 21:4-9 KJV).

Again it was food and drink the people lusted after. They were not satisfied with the wonderful supernaturally prepared bread from heaven, the manna, that God provided fresh every morning, except the Sabbath when Friday's provision was doubled. Can you imagine supernaturally provided food given to folks who then complain and gripe about it? But do we do the same with God's blessings today? And so this leads us to the next sin explicitly stated for our learning.

[1 Cor. 10:10 NAS] **Nor grumble** [murmur KJV], **as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.**

This last sin mentioned, murmuring, or grumbling, is so often found throughout the history of God's people in the wilderness, and I believe it is just as often found today among those who profess to be following Jesus Christ.

God warns about this sin here and elsewhere in the New Testament. A strong word of warning from James when he wrote:

[Jam. 5:9 NAS] **Do not complain** [Gk.: stenazete, groan, sigh; murmur ARV], **brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.**

God warns us today that He is standing ready to judge this sin of murmuring immediately. There are different kinds of judgments, but one that is experienced immediately is the loss of being filled with the Holy Spirit, which gives one a peace and joy "**unspeakable and full of glory**" (1 Pet. 1:8). Instead there is a downcast countenance, a loss of being aglow with the Spirit and His accompanying fruit, and the works of the flesh often become manifest such as enmity, strife, and outbursts of anger (Gal. 5:19-23).

There are so many occasions throughout the scriptures of God's people murmuring, and an excellent example that Paul is referring to here in the letter to the Corinthians is when first, leaders of Israel rebelled and murmured against God's chosen leadership, Moses, and Aaron, and were destroyed for their sin very dramatically. The earth open up and swallowed the instigators and their families alive, and then "**fire from the Lord**" burned up the 250 more leaders, "**princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown,**" who had followed the rebellious leaders. To remind the people of this penalty for rebelling and murmuring against His appointed leadership, God had them take the bronze censers for burning incense that the 250 had used, and hammer them out for a covering for the sacred altar of the tabernacle, to be a sign to the people forever (Num. 16).

Then secondly (which never, never, ceases to amaze me), is that the people on the very next day after this dramatic act of God in disciplining His people, continued to murmur against Moses and Aaron. They even denied the judgment was from God Himself, and accused the chosen vessels of God, Moses and Aaron, of killing “**the people of the Lord.**” We read:

[Num. 16:41] **But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.**

This of course resulted in more judgment from God, and God sent a destroying plague that killed 14,700 more before the intercession of Moses and Aaron made sufficient atonement for the people and the plague was restrained. Amazing! Simply amazing. A little murmuring, anyone?!!

The next thing in this incident we read is that familiar story of how God emphasized that it is He who chooses leaders for His people, and he had a leader from each of the twelve tribes of Israel place a rod, with their own name on it, in the tabernacle of the congregation, and we then read,

[Num. 17:5] **And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.**

And we remember the story how that Aaron's rod budded, and it was laid up for an everlasting sign and memorial in the sacred tabernacle, for we read:

[Num. 17:8] **And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. [9] And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. [10] And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.**

It is remarkable that all three of the items inside of the ark of the Covenant in the holy of holies in the tabernacle of the Lord -- the golden jar of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of stone of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 16:31-34; Num. 17:10; Deut. 10:1-5; Heb. 9:4) -- had involved the sin of the murmuring of God's people, and about food.

In fact, Aaron's rod was given specifically, as we just read, to:

[Num. 17:10 NAS] **“be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me, so that they should not die.”**

And as concerning food, we have the manna, the partying while Moses received the Ten Commandments, and Aaron's rod that budded even “**bore ripe almonds**” (Num. 17:8 NAS).

What also is remarkable is that the Israelites still murmured centuries later when this incident was brought to their attention (Jn. 6). After Jesus fed the multitude with bread from heaven, they mentioned how their fathers had been fed with manna in the wilderness, so Jesus told them that He was the bread of life that came down from heaven, and they murmured at Him. We read:

**[Jn. 6:41] The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. [42] And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? [43] Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.**

His answer to them is the same as it is to us today. Do not murmur! And yet as the Lord went further on in this discussion and told the people that they must eat this bread from heaven in order to have eternal life, that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood, even His disciples murmured. It was so hard for them to understand that many even ceased to follow Him. We read:

**[Jn. 6:60] Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? [61] When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? [62] What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? [63] It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. . . .**

**[66] From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

And so today, many people are still murmuring, saint and sinner alike, at Jesus or the words that He has given us, which we are to eat, and digest, and let become part of our lives. And many cease to follow Him.

It is interesting that as we go into the testimony of the New Testament church, we find the disciples murmuring again, and again it was about food.

**[Acts 6:1] And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.**

**[Acts 6:1 NAS] . . . a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.**

This complaint concerning food on the part of some about the fact that their widows were not being fed fairly by the busy apostles caused murmuring. And like their forefathers in the wilderness, it was about food being provided by God, this time through the generosity of their fellow believers. It brought about the establishment of the office of deacons, as seven men were selected and ordained to oversee the distribution of the daily food needed for the widows.

Beloved, God tells us again and again, do not murmur. He says through Paul:

[Phil. 2:14] **Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

And He says through Peter:

[1 Pet. 4:9] **Use hospitality [the sharing of ones food and home] one to another without grudging.**

Let the religious, the "Pharisees, Sadducees, and writers of legalistic script" continue to murmur about Jesus and us when we do not live up to their man-made standards and traditions:

[Lk. 5:30] **But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?**

But let us who name the name of the Lord and desire to walk in truth and love, not murmur, lest we be destroyed! But rather let us be ever thankful, and learn to be thankful in everything (1 Thes. 5:18).

Beloved, as we have seen from the foregoing examples, the most common sin among God's people involved food, the idolatry of lusting after what we are to put into our mouths as more important than God and His word! And so we become defiled and start to murmur, and are again defiled by what comes out of our mouths. What a shame!

The hypocrites of Jesus' day complained to Him that His disciples were not eating according to their traditions, and hypocrites are still doing this today (Mt. 15; Mk. 7). For most, it may not be the same traditions, but nevertheless they are traditions that have been passed on to us from our spiritual forefathers. For example, when dedicated disciples are pursuing God and His holiness, and have come to realize that their bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, they give to the Lord their bodies as living sacrifices, to be holy in all aspects. The disciples then start to eat according to God's word, eat according to God's teachings of holiness, refraining from certain unholy, unhealthy things, and learn to eat that which is sanctified by God's word and communion with Him. They determine as the word says to "buffet" their bodies, meaning to struggle against wrongful indulgences and not meaning as most apply it today, to overindulge. Then they are criticized and accused as being legalistic when in fact those making the accusations are lawless, and lascivious, and have given themselves over to any lust that their unregenerate tastes still lust after, and that their Babylonian traditions and leaders teach them that it is alright to indulge in. What a shame!

Paul warned us about these kinds of false teachers and the fruit they produce when he wrote:

[Rom. 16:17 KJV] **Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause [Gk.: make, are doing] divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. [18] For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the**

**hearts of the simple** [those distrusting no one, harmless, Gk.: those without evil].

[Rom. 16:17 NAS] **Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. [18] For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.**

[Phil. 3:17 KJV] **Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. [18] (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: [19] Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) [20] For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

[Phil. 3:17 NAS] **Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. [18] For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, [19] whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. [20] For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

Beloved, now that we have seen that of the sinful examples God has warned us about not to follow, that more were about food than anything else, we need to consider how we practice this form of idolatry today.

We eat anything and everything our perverted and unregenerate taste buds have become accustomed to and lust after, and pray and expect God to bless what He has cursed, that which has been made unholy and unhealthy, which He does not want us to buy or eat. We do not pray and determine whether that which we consider food is really food, meaning that which is to be taken into our bodies for nourishment, not that which just tastes good and is edible. Rather, it is to be holy by God's word and the communion and teaching of the Holy Spirit. We heap to ourselves teachers who will tell us what our itching ears want, what will satisfy our unhealthy lusts, and then wonder why we are sick and so many Christians die prematurely, even those who believe and have experienced God's healing power. It is a sad fact that among most groups of Christians, sicknesses and the death rate are no different than the unregenerate world, yet God has promised divine health and healing, and that we would not die before our time (Ex. 15:26; 23:23-26; Psa. 103:1-5; Pro. 4:20-22; Isa. 53:4-5; Mt. 8:16-17). But the problem is that we do not listen to His voice, we do not do what is right in His sight, we do not keep His commandments, and we definitely do not keep His health and dietary statutes (Lev. 11; 15; Deut. 14; 23:12-14; Rom. 15:4; 1 Thes. 5:23-24; 1 Tim. 4:1-8; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; see my teachings on Holiness & Holy Nutrition).

Our Church banquets are Babylonian Feasts, not the holy Love Feasts of the New Testament, where a holy man of old could say that nothing unclean or unholy had ever entered his mouth (Acts 10:14, 28 NAS).

And if we haven't gorged ourselves either before or at "Church," we leave what is supposed to be "the house of prayer" where actually very little praying is done, and hurry off somewhere to indulge our ungodly appetites together and say it is for fellowship.

Let us conclude by repeating what God says to you and me about food being an idol:

**[1 Cor. 10:11] Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. [12] Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. [Resting and resisting in the assurance, and determining that, 13] No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.**

**[14] Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. [15] I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.**

May God grant us the grace to understand and live His word, and to be ever thankful; to take heed what we hear, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, the good news of His glorious holiness, and that we are and can be partakers of His holiness so that we please Him in everything that goes in or out of our mouths. Amen! And, Amen!

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