

Ray Brubaker

INTRODUCTION

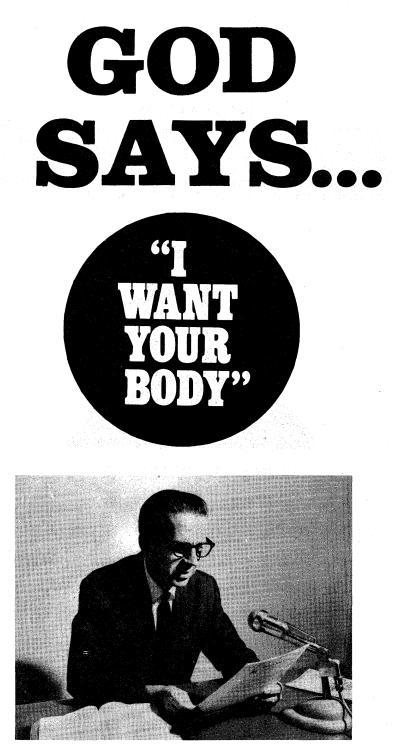
"I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom 12:1-2.



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from GOD'S NEWS . . . BEHIND THE NEWS Radio Broadcast St. Petersburg, Florida



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GOD WILL PROTECT YOUR BODY OR YIELD YOUR BODY TO THE LORD



Associated Press Mrs. Deborah Dortzbach

A 24-year-old American missionary nurse who had been abducted by four armed guerrillas in northern Ethiopia is back in the United States. Here is a special report.

Deborah Dortzbach, an expectant mother, was held a prisoner for 27 days. During this time her father and friends expressed faith in her as being "competent, compassionate and coolheaded."

Deborah and her husband, Carl, served as missionaries in Ethiopia because the Lord wanted them there. They are both dedicated. And according to the Rev. John P. Galbraith of Philadelphia, who heads up the Foreign Mission Board under which they served, Debbie is alive today because of having "a deep and abundant religious faith."

In a rather unusual and different situation, we report the outcome of the kidnapping of a Minneapolis housewife who likewise claimed her faith brought her through a most trying ordeal recently.

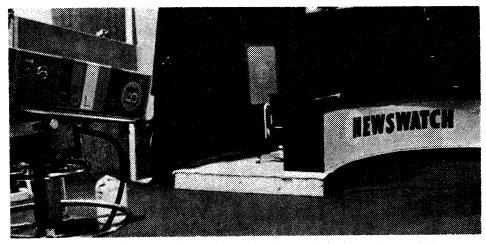
Mrs. Eunice Kronholm, the wife of a St. Paul banker, was abducted from her home. She was held captive for several days and released upon the payment of a \$200,000 ransom.

At a press conference, Mrs. Kronholm, a Baptist, testified that it was a Christian radio station (KTIS) that played a vital role in her being released without being harmed. On a Sunday morning she was permitted to listen to the station and heard an announcement made that everyone pray for her safe return. "You can't imagine what that made me feel like," testified Mrs. Kronholm.

The unusual twist to the story is that the state has agreed to drop charges against the kidnapper in exchange for his testimony. And Mrs. Kronholm is herself accused of some kind of complicity in her own kidnapping. She laments: "An admitted kidnapper is exonerated" and "A man they call a hardened criminal has charges dropped and the only one who suffers is the victim of the crime."

She goes on to relate: "Some of the facts while I was a captive were warped in such a way as to make it appear that I was cooperating with the kidnappers, when all I was trying to do was save my life or show Christian concern. You're tempted to call it a terrible dream, but I have seen it happen. I'm living through it, and I have a hard time bringing myself to believe it."

Similarly Mr. Kronholm complains: "It leaves you with a shabby feeling about justice."



St. Petersburg Times Photo by George Goethe

On a Sarasota, Florida, television station the 29-year-old hostess of a talk show had just read the account of a shooting incident in a local restaurant. Then she proceeded to announce her own attempted suicide. Reading from a script that she had prepared, she told her audience they were going to see "in living color--another first" and reaching for a gun she had hidden in a shopping bag, she proceeded to pull the trigger. She died in a hospital 14 hours later.

Horrified viewers were stunned. Calls flooded the Sheriff's Department. One caller asked the station if it was a joke. No, was the reply. The action was for real. A verse in the Bible asks the question--"For what is your life?" (James 4:14) The answer given is, "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Life at its longest, and best, is merely a brief moment compared with all eternity where we are going to be with God in Heaven, or apart from Him.

Occasionally we read of those who die for a noble cause, who douse themselves with a flammable liquid and light themselves to become flaming torches. The Apostle Paul speaks of those who seek the promotion of such benevolent ends, saying: "Though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing."

Love for life, and love for our ownbodies, is of much more value than dying for a cause in which we might believe unless that cause may be "for God and country" as in the case of past patriots.



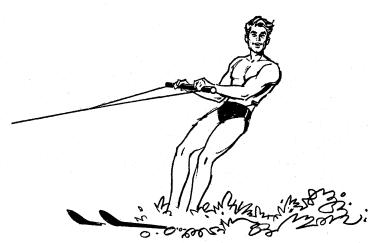
"It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees": Mexico City

Elsewhere the Apostle Paul calls attention to the real meaning of life, and to how best we can use our bodies. Our bodies, he notes, are meant to be temples in which God dwells. Think of it! Think of your body as a habitation of the Spirit of God. What real purpose there is to life when God is in control of the life.

There's where a decision must be made if we are to know the reality of God's presence and power in our lives. God does not force Himself upon anyone, but He does direct His love toward us, having sent Christ to die for our sins and in our stead.

Listen to this appeal by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:1-2. He writes: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Did you hear it?



In an advertising campaign a health spa uses the slogan--"I want your body!"

Similarly, the Lord is saying to Christians: "I beseech you... to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service..."

Why does God want your body?

First of all, because He is your maker. God created man for Himself, making man in His own likeness and image.

In the second place, our Lord died on the cross for man's sins. How many have bodies that are corrupted by disease, ruined by wickedness, harmed by habits that are sinful!

The message of the Gospel is that Christ died for man's sin so that you can be forgiven and set free from your sin. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that when you accept God's gift of forgiveness, you no longer engage in sin's practice. Rather, the call of God is that you live holy which is "your reasonable service."

When sin is the cause of much of the trouble in the world today, making life miserable, providing broken homes and bruised lives, is it reasonable that a person who has been set free from sin should again become shackled by its chains?

Peter speaks of those who "after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" and "are again entangled therein, and overcome...." Says Peter: "The latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

For a man delivered from sin to return to a life of sinning, he says, is like a dog returning to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (IIPeter 2:20 & 22)

The Lord wants your body. He made you. He died to save you. And now He lives to keep you.

If you say you are unable to live the Christian life, there has to be a reason. In all probability you have never allowed Christ to come into your life, or you have not allowed the Holy Spirit to take control of your life. The Scripture reminds us that Christ died to "redeem us from all iniquity." So it is not God's fault if you have not been forgiven and set free of all of your sins.

Then, He has sent His Holy Spirit to come into your heart and life to keep you until the day He comes for you. Thus, your body is His temple. And He expects you to live holy because of Him who is holy, who inhabits your body.

In I Thess. 5:23 we read: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

What an assignment! Can God keep you until the day of Christ's Coming?

Well, the next verse says: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

How wonderful to trust your self to His loving care. Today does He live in you? We read: "Christ in you the hope of glory!"

Then we would ask--does He control you? The command of Scripture is that you be filled (or controlled) by God's Spirit. Have you yielded "spirit, soul and body" to His control?

Finally, does He keep you?

Who can take better care of you than God Himself? And He promises to preserve you until the coming of our Lord.

Why live for sin and its consequences and wind up in eternal perdition when you can surrender your life now to Jesus Christ, allowing Him to dwell in you by His spirit, with His preservation promised you until He comes?

Is that not the secret of life? Is that not what living is all about? Then, as Paul exclaims: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Yes, God wants you. He wants your body. He wants to guide you daily by His Spirit as you pray to Him and read His Word. And He wants to keep you until the day of Christ's Coming when you will be caught up to be with Him forever.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

OUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the indications that we are living in the last days is the women's liberation movement. As in the days when the devil tempted Eve, so he is now rising up in opposition to woman's insubordination to man, as taught in the Scriptures. The Bible makes it clear that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church. (Ephesians 5:22,23) While a husband is to love his wife, she is ever to be in subjection to him, according to God's holy ordinance. Any failure of husband or wife to play their proper role is downright disobedience in the sight of God.

Pope Paul VI, speaking from Vatican City, declared that any society tolerating divorce, contraception, and abortion is doomed to dissolution or slavery. His remarks were meant to offset the repeal of Italy's divorce law which the Vatican strongly opposed.

In the United States the announcement by the Federal Government establishing regulations that will require mixed classes in gym and other areas where there is discrimination between the sexes comes as a shock to parents concerned for their children. No longer can it be permissable for a course in the public school to be restricted to sex, such as "home economics" for girls, and "industrial arts" for boys. All must be treated alike.

According to Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, all public funded institutions must conform to these regulations. "Congress," he explains, "has decreed that sex discrimination cannot be allowed to persist where Federal funds are involved."

Although the rules will continue to allow for sex segregation in college housing, along with separate toilet facilites, it can be ascertained that this will surely be next. Already joint sex education classes are being planned.

According to an Associated Press dispatch even grade school boys and girls will be required to attend sex education classes together.

Reports of some of the films being shown in these classes are unbelievable. Some of our educational leaders are proposing showing all kinds of sextechniques with no holds barred. Testifies Derek Burleson, director of education and research for the Sex Information and Education Conference of the United States: "Showing such films to students is perfectly understandable, if it is done in a sound educational context, and in the proper atmosphere." He went on to assert that though engaging in sodomy is against the law, showing pictures of sodomy may not be in violation."

What our young people are being taught in some of our schools might be reflected in an article written by a high school sophomore, which appeared in the Philadelphia Daily News. (March 19, 1974) The article by this 15-year-old girl first appeared in her school newspaper, and I quote from one of the paragraphs. She wrote: "Sex is a natural part of life and should be treated that way. With the knowledge of modern medicine, unwanted pregnancy will no longer have to be a problem and youth can enjoy premarital sex without fear."

Is this what our young people are learning?

Ann Landers, syndicated columnist, advises her readers to shun the "new morality," suggesting young girls "steer clear of situations that can lead to unrestrained lovemaking, avoid extremes in wearing apparel, shun sexy talk and actions and set (your) own curfew, if parents neglect to give one." To boys she suggests: "Keep your mind and body occupied with wholesome, constructive activity. Burn up your excessive energies...don't ever park the car just to talk; you can run out of conversation mighty fast when the moon is bright and the stars are twinkling."

Psychotherapist Thomas Cottle of MIT, notes: "The 'new morality,' far from being universally liberating, has been causing some young people a special sort of insecurity and hurt."

CHRISTIANITY APPLIED, a new magazine, notes the tragedy of the new morality in the nearly 1 million abortions taking place each year. It observes: "Only a tiny fraction are due to health, deformity, rape, or incest. The overwhelming majority are simply unwanted human beings. Multimillions of lives have been destroyed." Should a Christian girl compete in a Miss America pageant? This was the question that Miss Tina Thomas had to answer.

Three different times she won the talent division singing, "Precious Lord, Take my Hand." She had not planned to sing this well-known spiritual. But, the Lord spoke to me in a dream, she relates, and told me to sing it.

Tina was crowned Miss Pennsylvania in June of 1973. She went on to compete in the Miss America pageant and was designated fourth runner-up.

Some would criticize these appearances, but Tina believes a Christian should be a testimony for Jesus Christ even in a Miss America contest. "The Christian's body," she notes, "is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and I believe that a Christian should be physically fit. I don't believe in cooking and eating fattening foods. I think we should eat meat, fruits, and vegetables. I don't like cakes, and I don't like junk food. It's bad for your health."

What about our bodies?

In Romans 12:1,2, we read: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

What kind of Christians would we be were we to learn and put into practice these verses?

We might ask, have I presented my body to the Lord? Am I a living sacrifice, having yielded my all to Christ? Have I surrendered every part of my being to Him? Does He possess me fully?

In fulfilling this Scripture we come to the conclusion--GOD WANTS YOUR BODY.

In the first place, God wants your heart. The Bible says: "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

In order for God to have our heart, we must surrender it to Him. We must recognize that we are born sinners with hearts that are evil and in need of being changed. Jesus himself declared: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." That's not a pleasant picture, is it?

Jeremiah said: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

That, my friends, is why we need a change of heart. And

that change comes about as we yield our all to Jesus Christ.

Again the heart is involved, for therein are made our decisions for time and eternity. In Romans 10:9,10, we read: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the HEART man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Did you hear it?

God wants your body. He wants your heart. And then He wants your mouth to witness to the transformation.

What wonderful testimonies we hear of those who have been victimized by sin, with hearts that have been sorely depraved, but upon coming to Christ they have been wonderfully saved. Then with the mouth confession has been made to their newfound salvation.

The Bible says: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. (Psalm 107:2)

After the Lord gets our mouth, I believe He wants our feet. In this same chapter of Romans after mention is made of the heart believing, and the mouth speaking, we read of the feet running to proclaim the good news of salvation. Romans 10:15 says: "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things"!

The proverbial writer speaks of those whose feet be swift in running to mischief. (Proverbs 6:18) This might represent the talebearer with mischievous stories and gossip. Or, it could speak of those bound for places of sin, going to dens of iniquity.

In this same chapter of Proverbs, mention is made of the man who goeth in to his neighbor's wife. How many are thus guilty today in committing acts of adultery because their feet led them into places of sin.

Concerning this woman we read: "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."

Hear me, today, how many are brought to ruin, with families broken and homes wrecked, because of feet that have never been surrendered to Jesus Christ, and eyes that have lust in them.

How many succumb to temptation through the lust of the eye. Jesus warned, "...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." And so serious was this sin that our Lord went on to say: "...if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matthew 5:28,29) Now, it appears that many do not regard it that serious a sin, for they flirt with the eye, and divorce their mates with the least provocation. But our Lord made looking at a woman to lust after her as sinful as the act of adultery. And we are told no adulterer can enter the kingdom of God. So, rather than to offend in this way, our Lord says it's better to pluck out one's eye than for the whole body to be cast into hell.

You see, my friends, God wants your body. Jesus died to save you, and He lives to keep you, but you must surrender your all to Him in order for His Spirit to indwell you and keep you.

In this same chapter, and in the next verse we read where the Lord speaks of the hand. He says: "...if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matthew 5:30)

Yes, our Lord wants your hand.

How important for you to hear this message today. Too long some of you have been living your own life--doing your own thing, serving the lusts of your flesh, and you will land in eternal perdition if you do not wake up and start doing the will of God.

Listen to these verses. In I John 2:15 we read: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Then we read what constitutes love for the world. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Then note: "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Is this what you want? On Moody's grave there is a marker on which are these words: "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

This, my friends, is the call of God to every believer today. You have a shallow form of belief if you think you can sin and get away with it. God is asking you to give your heart and life to him. But then He wants your hands and your feet, your eyes and all of you. He wants you to be surrendered to the doing of His will. FOR HE THAT DOE TH THE WILL OF GOD ABIDE TH FOREVER.

In view of the coming of the Lord we need this message today. We need to surrender all to Christ to be ready for Him when He comes. By receiving Him as Saviour, and accepting Him as Lord and Master of our lives, we can be ready when He comes.

For he hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



Legislation has been introduced in Sweden to allow for instant divorce. It will also make marriage ceremonies unnecessary.

God ordained that marriage be held in the highest regard. To quote the Amplified version of Hebrews 13:4, we read: "Let marriage be held in honor--esteemed worthy, precious (that is) of great price and especially dear--in all things."

EXPOSITORS Commentary suggests that "as a natural result of holding marriage in honor, its ideal sanctity will be violated neither by the married nor by the unmarried."

Sweden, too, is noted for its decline of morality with the reputation of having the highest VD rate of any civilized nation.

An example of Sweden's sex education program finds manuals for 3 year olds complete with illustrations.

A popular book for children is the story of a broken home, which is a widespread social problem in Sweden, where the divorce rate in 1972 was more than 33 percent.

In this book, when the little girl's daddy does not come home on Christmas Eve, the little girl was told by her mother... "You see, daddy and I have...we are going to get a divorce." The little girl says, "I felt so sick inside I thought I was going to cry." Then the book explains how it's nice to have many boy friends, and so her mother latches on to another man. The book explains that divorce is not such a terrible thing... "everyone doesn't keep the same best friend for their whole life." So children are taught anti-Biblical concepts.

Could this also account for Sweden having the top suicide rate in the world, the top rate of mental illness, and very close to the top rate of illegitimate children in the world?

Now, as bad as conditions are abroad, they are still worse here in the States, according to Billy Graham, who says: "I had thought Sweden was bad, but Sweden hasn't gone near to the depths of various sex deviations and obsessions that we have gone."

Graham called our moral decadence "the greatest threat to our democracy" and quoted the words of Jesus who declared: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Son of man comes back." Indeed, we are seeing a moral collapse comparable to the days of Sodom and Gomorrah with God's judgment hanging over this nation like the sword of Damocles, about to fall on account of our wickedness.

How important and how necessary for Christians to keep prayerful, to read their Bibles, to tune in to Christian broadcasts, and seek to live daily such holy lives as to prepare them for the day of rapture when Christ comes for His own.

For is this not the call of God to this generation--to be ready for Christ's Coming?

I am sure there are some who will ask--why are fornication and adultery such grave sins?

The first reason is, my friends, that our bodies are meant to be temples of the Holy Spirit.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul writes: "What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor 6:19,20)

Did you hear it?

Can you discern the impact of what we have just read? God wants to dwell in your body. And by committing acts of immorality, we are seriously defiling and sinning against our bodies.

Writes Paul: "Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." And he goes on to use the illustration of how in the marriage relationship two become one flesh; therefore, in the case of immorality there is similarly "two becoming one flesh," which is a grave sin.

Hear what Paul writes: "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh."

Notice how Paul sums up his argument. He admonishes: "FLEE FORNICATION!" That is, run away from the snare of Satan as you would rush out from the presence of a serpent. No matter how alluring may be the relationship--how attractive may be the situation--there is no argument that God will accept that will permit extramarital relationships.

So Paul urges, saying: "FLEE FORNICATION. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (I Cor 6:18)

Did you hear it?

There is something ultraserious about this business of having physical relations outside of marriage. It is not only a grievous sin, but it is a sin against your body.

The reason this is so terrible is that when Christ died, He purchased you with the price of His own blood so that you are not to abuse your body. Rather your body is His property.

Also, as God's property, your body is meant to be a temple wherein He dwells. And, in order for God to dwell in your body, He has ordained that it be pure, and clean, and holy! How many seek to excuse their sin, or to justify their promiscuous relationships--whereas, the Scriptures warn: "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God."

You name the sin, whether it is homosexuality, lesbianism, or any other type of perversion; or whether it is fornication or adultery, the Bible says "Be not deceived...you cannot inherit the kingdom of God."

Now we have groups forming that knowingly participate in these sins that form churches, and have their own ministers, but that does not change the Word of God.

You mark it down. When the Lord comes, it will be wellknown that they were false pretenders and not truly born-again believers. For the Bible says: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (or practice) sin." Again we are told: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

So, we can know whether or not we are in God's family. If we are obeying the Scriptures, having truly repented of sin to trust the Saviour, we are in God's family. If we are not adhering to these truths of God's Word, we are deceived and a part of Satan's family.

Now, not only are we to adhere to the Scriptural teaching concerning these truths, we are not to have anything to do with those who reject these truths.

In II John 9 we read, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ hath both the Father and the Son."

Is that clear?

If you are transgressing...If you are sinning...If you are guilty of these sins of fornication, adultery, and the like--you are void of God's Spirit.

On the other hand, if you have accepted Christ and are obedient to His commandments, you have both the Father and the Son indwelling your heart.

Notice the next verse. "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed: For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Hear me, today!

You can have Christ by trusting Him as your Saviour and Lord. Then God Himself wants to dwell in fulness in your life. This is the message in the book of Ephesians where Paul writes of being "filled with all the fulness of God." (Eph 3:19)

This is the message needed in the Church today. Too often the invitation is given only to accept Christ as your Saviour and nothing is said to the believer about needing God in his life. Or, he imagines that all of God's fulness comes as a result of that personal decision. While we admit that potentially all of God's fulness is available to the believer, there is a price to be paid to come into this relationship. Our Lord Himself plainly informed His disciples of how it would be, saying: "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and WE will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23)

How plainly the Scriptures teach us that our bodies are meant to be the temples of God. That not only Christ wants to dwell in our hearts by faith, but that God Himself wants to abide in fulness within us. But this is conditioned upon loving Christ, and keeping His Words.

Why is it then, that many do not know the fulness of God? It is because they are engaged in sinning against their bodies, or they are not obeying the truth of God's Word.

It's that simple.

Hear me! These are the Last Days. God has promised in the Last Days to pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh. If your heart is prepared to receive, you can come to know Christ as Saviour, and you can know of the blessing of this fulness of the Holy Spirit.

In order to survive the temptations of life, the allurements of the world, and resist the lukewarmness that is found in the church today, you need this fulness of God's Spirit. Seek it, Hunger for it, Want it, Desire it more than anything else. And, if you are willing to pay the price of obedience and surrender to all of the revealed will of God, you can then know of this indwelling of the Spirit in fulness within you.

Catherine Booth once wrote: "God never gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to any human soul who has not come to the point where he would sell all he had to obtain it. Oh, it is the most precious gift He has to give in earth or in Heaven--to be filled with Himself, taken possession of by God, moved, inspired, energized, empowered by God, by the great indwelling Spirit moving through all our faculties and energizing our whole being for Him."

Do you know what she is talking about?

In view of the coming of the Lord we have only one message, that is, we need to come to know Christ as Saviour, and then surrender fully to Him as Lord. And when you allow Christ to become Lord of your life, and Lord of your body, you can know of this relationship that prepares you for the coming of our Saviour.

"The body is for the Lord," says Paul. And when He comes He will "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...."

Our bodies now are meant to be temples of God. But think of the change, the metamorphosis that will occur when Christ comes. As we read in I Corinthians 15:51, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...."

Are you ready for that day? Are you saved and living for Christ should He come today? Is God living in fulness in your body? Is your body the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Or, are you living in carnal lusts, fulfilling the desires of evil passion, committing acts of adultery or fornication, or other impure relationships that will damn your soul and seal your doom for all eternity separated from God?

Indeed, Come to Christ, Repent of your sin to trust the Saviour. Then, be filled with the Spirit. And be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

Like A Computer, Our Bodies Are Wonderfully made!



Today I would like to seek to acquaint you with the marvelous mechanism we call the human body.

The late Dr. W. B. Riley comments on the words of the Psalmist that man is fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)

Here are some of his observations: He likens the body to an elaborate electronic device, far more complicated than any which man has ever built.

The human brain, for instance, is made up of something like 10 million nerve cells, or neutrons. Each neutron is a batterypowered device operating at a potential of 0.07 volts. The nervous system is a telephone system by which the brain is kept informed of what goes on around us. It is estimated that each of our eyes has 130 million rods and 7 million cones which are the sensory terminals of sight. These are connected to the brain by over 300,000 separate "telephone" lines. When we look at something, the thing we see is broken down by these sensory points, and the gradations of light and shade and color of each incremental area are sent to the brain as separate signals. There they are rearranged, in some way yet unknown to us, to give the impression of visualizing the whole scene. In television, each tiny elemental area of the scene is connected to the receiver for only about 1-250,000th of the time. In the human eye, information is sent to the brain from all areas of the scene simultaneously. Some of the early television systems proposed to use the method which the eye uses, but the system was so bulky, even to transmit a very poor image, that it was abandoned. To carry signals from the ear to the brain, something like 150,000 separate conductors lead from each ear, each insulated from the others.

These signals are picked up by delicate probes on the brain, amplified by sensitive amplifiers and reproduced on a loudspeaker.

Perhaps it might help you to determine whether we evolved from an amoeba, as some would have us believe, or whether we were made by the hand of an infinite Creator, as you hear today's broadcast on Your Body.

For instance, take your body and compare it with an automobile engine. We are told that your body has 30,000,000,000-000 (30 trillion) cylinders. Now if your car engine had 30,000-000,000,000 cylinders, as your body has, you would have a job to get it all under the hood. Think of a mechanic keeping the carburetor adjusted. Or, think of keeping the gas tank filled to operate such a vehicle.

Yet, we are told your body is that kind of amazing machine, designed with absolutely unmatched skill and perfection. Its combination fuel and exhaust system is unequaled by any contrivance of man.

Blood flows through your body, traveling in a maze of 100,000 miles of blood vessels, in just 23 seconds. Think of it! This traffic, we are told, is so precisely controlled by an electronic brain that it is sensitive to even a thought.

Like an automobile which uses 9,000 gallons of air for every gallon of gasoline, so the cells of the body need a substantial and continuous supply of oxygen. When resting, your body takes up to four gallons of oxygen an hour. During heavy activity your body may require up to 75 gallons. Air is breathed into the lungs which are composed of 700 million cells.

The skin, believe it or not, is said to be the largest and one of the most wonderful organs of your body. Your skin is a practical air conditioning system which helps keep you warm in winter and cool in summer. There are over 1 and 1/2 million sweat glands that help carry away the poisons in your body.

Did you know your skin may harbor a tiny-sized tick known as Demodex, a facial mite? Dr. Jerry Jacobson of Manhattan, relates how almost half of the U.S. population may play host to this microscopic parasite which clings to the roots of facial hair, mainly the eyebrows. This facial mite is known to bury itself beneath the surface of the skin during the daytime, venturing forth only in darkness.

What a picture of how Satan tries to get under our skin! We may not recognize that he is around but because of our actions we can surely tell he is not far distant. The Bible says: "...men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19) So the devil seeks to fasten himself to our lives, getting us to do evil deeds, until we come to Christ and are set free from his bondage.

Now, the most amazing part of man's machinery mechanism is the heart. The heart could pump and fill a good-sized swimming pool in a day. Again, it has been noted that if the heartbeat were "concentrated into one huge throb of vital power, it would be sufficient to throw a ton of iron 120 feet into the air."

Dr. Riley estimated his own heartbeat at 3 billion times since he was born with a weight-lifting power equal to 6 million tons.

Let us take a look at the brain that is made up of 3,000,000,-000,000 (3 trillion) nerve cells of which 9,200,000,000 are in the cortex or covering of the brain alone.

Can you remember that?

Dr. Wilber Penfield, the director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, had this to say: "Your brain contains a permanent record of your past that is like a continuous strip of movie film, complete with sound tract! This 'film library,' he notes, records your whole waking life from childhood on. You can live again these scenes from your past, one at a time, when a surgeon activates a gentle electrical current to a certain point on the temporal cortex of your brain."

Think of it!

No wonder the Bible indicates that man never loses his memory. Even in eternity, unless he receives Christ as Saviour, he will be haunted forever by a built-in memory system.

Paul Evans, in the Log of the Good Ship Grace Radio Program, says: "I personally believe that perhaps the greatest agony the unconverted will experience in eternity will be the lashes of memory."

Remember how our Lord relates the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man died and in Hades he lifted up his eyes being intorment. And Abraham said to him, "Son, remember...."

With the brain that God has given us, along with a neverdying soul, man has a memory likened unto a giant computer or tape recorder. Why is it that when a man faces sudden death it is as though his whole life flashes before him? How wonderful to know the past is clear, that your sins are forgiven, and that you have the hope of Heaven. You need not fear the future or fear death, for "absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." With a glorified body that no longer suffers pain but can enjoy the pleasures of a heavenly paradise, we can share this assurance if you will only surrender your spirit, soul, and body to Him who gave it to you in the first place.

How many wreck their bodies by narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, and the wrong kinds of food! How many satisfy their appetites with lustful perversions and immoral actions!

Someone has suggested that unless you come to know Christ, you will not only have the memory of a past life of sin, but there will always be the unsatisfied appetites. For, in hell you cannot walk a mile for a cigarette. In hell there won't be a bar where you can satisfy that burning thirst. The sinner, in the Bible, who died and went to hell suffered intense thirst. He called for Lāzarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool his tongue. So this leads us to believe that there will be unsatisfied cravings that will never be met, desires that never will be satisfied in hell.

That is why God wants to save you and fit you for eternity. And don't think that merely making some kind of a decision is all that there is to salvation. We might consider it a first step, even though it is the most important step. For to come to know Christ as Saviour is to come into possession of eternal life.

But then I read, "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24)

Some wrongfully suppose that they can yield to wrong desires and still be Christians. They can still participate in the satisfaction of their fleshly appetite and still be soul winners.

My friends, the call of God is to surrender to the Holy Spirit and so allow Him to control your appetites, that get you into trouble. You need to crucify and put to death your lower nature in order that God can fully possess your life.

Did you hear me?

Some people who are converted suddenly find the habits of life disappearing and have no more desire for drugs, or some other harmful habit. Yet, there are others who are just as sincere in their profession who battle their desires, and can't seem to find victory over their temptations.

What's the remedy?

First, we must recognize that our bodies are temples of God once we have surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ.

Second, we must henceforth reckon ourselves indeed dead to sin and alive to God. We must allow this life of sin to be crucified. That may be painful but it is Scriptural. Better to take the "cold turkey" treatment and mean business with God, than to yield to sin's appetite and suffer the pangs of eternal torment.

Finally, the message of the Word of God is that we can be delivered from any binding force. Fasting and prayer is one of God's ordained means to bring us into total victory over the sins of the flesh once we yield ourselves to Jesus Christ. Bible verses that are memorized will drive away demon thoughts that plague you. There may be "wrestling" with Satan himself, but better to resist the devil and come through victorious, than to yield to Satan and be lost forever.

You can be victorious. Writes Paul, "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

And declares James, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Drawnigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4: 7-8)

Yes, you can be cleansed from sin, and controlled by the Holy Spirit with love, joy, and peace in your life, rather than passions of lust, greed, and sensuality in control.

The secret to being ready for the coming of our Blessed Lord is to be saved, and then freed from binding lusts and sinful appetites, filled with the Holy Spirit, and found living in obedience to His will.

God wants to sanctify you wholly--your body, soul and spirit, and keep you ready for the coming of our Lord. Indeed, "faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it." (I Thes. 5:24)

"Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

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