



*MJM'S TEAM VOICE NEWSLETTER*

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*2018*



## Anyone can study the Bible this way

*Building our teaching on the whole Bible, safeguarding truth*

**Daniel Juster**

Nov 25, 2018



Not many years ago, a theological view called the “canonical approach” was championed by Brevard S. Childs from Yale Divinity School. (The Canon means the accepted, received, authoritative books of scripture – our Bible.) This approach takes the whole Bible into account when building theology, including both the Greek Scriptures (New Covenant) and the Hebrew scriptures (Old Covenant). The canonical approach means reading the Bible holistically and believing that one can assert the general thrust of the whole Bible – and especially its climax in the New Covenant Scriptures – for establishing teaching that should be normative for all believers.\*

When people “pick and choose” their passages and verses to develop doctrine they can arrive at very odd conclusions. Today’s egalitarians argue that the main thrust of the Bible is toward equality. Advocates for gay marriage argue that the thrust of the Bible is for greater and greater acceptance of gay life!

Today, a growing number of Evangelicals and Charismatics are coming to really “off” positions in their theology, including severely erroneous views such as universalism (that everyone will be saved). We noted last month that those who reject the authority of the Old Testament simply ignore what the New Testament says about the Hebrew Bible. Even well-meaning believers are liable to pick and choose texts and misinterpret them, in spite of other texts that would correct their errors. This is now rampant. When one builds a doctrinal position, it has to be based on the picture that emerges from the whole of scripture including all the texts that make assertions about the matter. Yes, there is evidence that the Bible sometimes gives direction for a limited time. For example, Paul writes on it being better to not marry given certain circumstances. However, when we build our doctrine, we

have to make sure that we do not reject the universal teaching and commands of the Torah and of the whole Bible. I call this a “conservative canonical approach.” We should go through the Bible accounting for all the texts that touch on a subject in context and then come to a whole-Bible conclusion. Many are not are doing this today, but it is crucial in avoiding error. I wrote my last three books to help correct errors that are now becoming very alarming.

These books are:

Prosperity: What the Bible Really Says,  
Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife: What the Bible Really Says, &  
Powers of Light and Darkness: What the Bible Really Says.

While some cultural background material for biblical interpretation is also helpful, anyone can study the Bible this way (for whole-Bible conclusions) and thus safeguard truth and avoid error. Today this is easier with all the software and internet Bible tools available, many of them without charge. Let’s have a truly conservative canonical approach that produces sound doctrine.

\*Childs’ approach was almost at the level of the “high view” of “inerrancy” that we hold to – that all the texts of the Bible always speak the truth according to the basic teaching of each text.

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## \*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas! \*\*

by

A Shepherd that got it.

I remember my father telling me the story that was told by his fathers' father and so on back to when Moses directed the generations to come to tell of the love of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1, 1:1) So, there we were, keeping watch over our flocks when "An angel of the Lord appeared to (us) them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and (we) they were terrified. But the angel said to (us) them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:9-14).

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1, 1:14)

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." (Luke 1:30-32)

"When the angels had left (us) them and gone into heaven, (we) the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke 2:15-20)

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (John 1, 1:12-13). "But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. .... For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ....For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." (John 6:36-40)

"For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.... It is written they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ....Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ... But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:33-51)

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them. From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him." (John 6:61-66)

The terrified shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Truly the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas was grand beyond duplication but more significant was how God as the Word became

flesh and made his dwelling among us. God, in the flesh, as Jesus, announced he brought the Kingdom of heaven to earth when he entered our world as a man. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17) The concept of his love is so moving that it is compared to the faith of a mustard seed moving a mountain. The “Father’s will is that everyone ... shall have eternal life.” But first “repent” and turn from our ways and look to the Son and believe in him. Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. ... It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. “So, I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened....how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’” (Luke 11:9-13)

As we all know anything given freely won't be appreciated and loses the spirit from which it was given. To realize the true meaning of Christmas is to understand why “many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him”. It is our sole (also soul!) responsibility to discover why God gives “the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.” Following the steps for the Bread of Life will unfold the mystery to the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Few will travel the narrow road to find the small gate and that leads to life. I leave you with the words Jesus teaches in the Lords' Prayer (God) “Our Father, .....thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.....”. May you find this place of peace and joy beyond human understanding.

Sent in by Peter Wong-

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# Recipe for The *Bread of Life*

Extrapolated from the Gospels

The best ingredients by themselves do not produce that unmistakable aroma of fresh baked bread. Nor do we have bread unless we follow a recipe and have the discipline to follow the steps closely. Just like the aroma of bread appears when we follow a recipe of unsubstituted steps so does having Heaven on earth. “.....I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Mat 16:19).

God, Himself, in the person of Jesus, came knocking at our door to invite all into the Kingdom of Heaven. To have a life, now, as in having Heaven on earth. Jesus proclaimed “... The Kingdom of Heaven has come near” (Mat 10:7). The below “RECIPE” are steps to the keys of the Kingdom. It is not a physical thing like food and water but a spiritual realization that Jesus taught “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...” (Matt. 6:9). Amen.

**R**epent and turn from our old ways. Turn to God and “discover” His Will and Love that will cause you to fold at your knees and realize the shame of our ways. The kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them...”. (Mat 13:11). How awesome is our God! “He who has ears.....” (has a heart to seek Gods' Will..... will be given spiritual ears to) “.... let him hear.” (Mathew 13:9; 13:43).

**E**nable your ears to hear- turn to God” people’s heart have become calloused.” (Mat 13:15-16).

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual ears enabling us to know the will of Gods' love and mercy. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

*Commit to be a follower of Jesus' teachings and sermons.* Read the Gospels (Good News) of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Be baptized and receive his promised Holy Spirit to comfort and council us. Symbolically, by immersion into the water we bury our old self and asking forgiveness, our sins are washed away and arising a new life, in Jesus.

**I**ntimate relationship with God. “Greater love hath no man (God in the flesh as Jesus) than this.....” (John 15:13). Jesus needed to get up at daybreak to pray to His Father,our God! How much more should we be seeking.

*Find your solitary quiet time to read the Bible.* At first, it may seem difficult, but your faith will prompt God to reveal his truths to you. “How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)

**P**ray to become a Prayer Warrior against Satan. Prayer protects us by the blood of the Lamb of God. “Don't give place to the devil.” (to create a barrier to our Heaven on Earth). (Ephesians 4:27). “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” (Psalms 100:2).

**E**ternity starts today. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to earth for everyone. We insult God who has given his all in order that we may be heirs to his Kingdom by making our lives more important than his. May you find this place of peace and joy beyond human understanding.

Submitted by Peter Wong

*Don't let technology fail you in times of need. A tried and true communications reminder;  
God answers kneemail.*

MJM OPERATING ACCOUNT – SEPTEMBER ENDING BALANCE \$ 10,537.24

OCTOBER DEPOSITS

DUES	95.00
DONATIONS	300.00
GOODIES	90.00
BANK TRANSFER FEE	<u>.50</u>
	\$484.50

SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

GOODIES (TANK TOPS)	290.84
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OCTOBER ENDING BALANCE \$10,720.90

\*\*\* 2,221.68 GOODIES  
320.00 HELPING HANDS  
8,179.22 MJM OPERATING

MJM LIFETIME SAVINGS ACCOUNT - SEPTEMBER ENDING BALANCE \$6,954.42

OCTOBER INTEREST \$.12

OCTOBER ENDING BALANCE \$6,954.54

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love  
you because  
God 1<sup>st</sup> loved me.

In the beginning was The Word.

The Word became flesh in the new born King.

Jesus is the living bread and offers the Holy Spirit to all.

Follow The Word that Jesus teaches. Eat the Bread of Life to receive  
the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables us to hear God's Will through The Word.

We repent and turn from our ways. God enables us to follow Jesus. Jesus teaches The Word.

Kingdom of Heaven  
is realized and becomes  
our Heaven on Earth!

Given in the Holy  
Spirit of Christmas

(Very cool Peter, thanks)



**Years of Service**

Sheron	Scoles	2
Thomas	Gilles	1

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Mary Lynn	Yanni	12/1	Eric	Gilbert	12/11
Louis "Bones"	Yanni	12/3	Kathleen	Cobb	12/16
Randy C.	Ream	12/4	Amber	Goble	12/16
Barbara	Bainbridge	12/5	Sandra	Carver	12/17
Peggy L.	Forney	12/5	Elaine	Walde	12/20
Jadin	Bailey	12/7	Theresa	Bankert	12/28
Gary	Decker	12/8	Nathanael	Farnsworth	12/30
Charles E. Jr.	Moore	12/8	Gary	Cobb	12/31

**Anniversaries**

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George and Janis	Partridge	12/12
Nathan	Brubaker	12/14
Gary and Charlene	Decker	12/18
George and Robin	Tamburino	12/24

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Debra Domenici	UT	11/12

**God Bless**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

**Michael Fields**

**National Membership Secretary**

