

## Between This & That

The idea of martyrdom ... Challenging

One comfort Jesus promises...

**A. Luk 12:11-12** "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, **do not worry** about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

As pastor Adrian pointed out in a recent message ... we need to be **studying** so the Holy Spirit has "something" in our heads that can be "brought to remembrance".

Paul speaks to us about an *opposite extreme*...

**B. Heb 5:13-14** For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- Novices are expected to be unfamiliar & unskilled
- "Those of Full age" are expected to discern good & evil



**Between this and that** ... there is another description of Christian behavior ...

**C. 1Pe 3:15** ... **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

**Col 4:5-6** Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one

**2Tim 2:15** Study to show thyself **approved** unto God, a workman that needs not to be **ashamed** (*Strong's-G422*), rightly dividing the word of truth.

What might make a workman blush with shame? (*G422 is used once in the KJV*)

- Shown up by a novice
- Doesn't know how to use some "basic" tool(s)
- Poor results looking back at a job just completed
- Not faithful in your "duty" (*responsibility*)
- From a boss at my workplace ... "you dropped the ball & really let down the team"
- Not do your best
- **\*\* Alternate understanding \*\*** - embarrassed that **public opinion** rejects the Gospel

Of the 3 Categories or situations discussed ... only one of them impacts us today...

- Not #1
- Not #2
- Category 3 references mature Christians & *something expected of us* ... To be ready with answers!

This subject is timely for me because of a few situations in my life:

- A granddaughter's question (Age 7) ... Why do you go to church Poppy?
- A son-in-law's question ... What if I die after just 7 years of marriage (& go to heaven) ... I want my wife to be happy (and re-marry) for the benefit of the kids too ... but what if she is happily married for 60 years (and dies) and we (all) are together again in heaven? Or ... what about me (in heaven) seeing my family suffer hardship / illness / etc?
- Situations in life ... we are "thrown into" ... eg funerals where friends or family (who almost never think of God or church) know that you are a "churchgoer" and they ask you – what is happening to the person who just died? Is God merciful to "nice people" who don't go to church?

Before answering these situations ... lets recall & explore some:

### **"12 Tools in our Spiritual Toolkit"**

1. Prayer & Worship
2. The Bible
3. Personal Testimony – "Our story"
4. Booklets & sermons & websites
5. Brethren (Friends & Family)
6. The Ministry
7. Fasting
8. Humor
9. Hymns & Music
10. Money
11. External sources – doctors, groups
12. Work & Preparation – eg Chain referencing your Bible
13. Electroshock Therapy





## Digging in on Chain Referencing...

- My first recollection – Mrs Armstrong learns about the Sabbath from Mrs. Runcorn
- What about ... **Going to heaven?**
  - **Mat 5:5** Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
  - **Rev 2:26** And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations
  - **Rev 21:2** Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- What about ... **State of the dead?**
  - Job\_14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.
  - Ecc\_9:5 For the living know that they will die; But **the dead know nothing**, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.
  - Eze\_18:4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall **die**.
  - Luk 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise **perish**.
  - Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- What about ... **Why go to Church?**
  - Psa 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. **His love** endures forever.
  - Psa 119:98 You, through Your commandments, **make me wiser** than my enemies; (**& teachers!**) For they are ever with me.
  - Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Resources to build good Chain references??

- Our favorite Bible verses
- Ask your brethren ... for good choices (for your topic) ... Helping *you* helps *them* too!
- <https://www.cgicanada2.org/media/scripture-list/07-CoG-ScriptureReferencesForFundamentalDoctrines.pdf>
- Statement of Beliefs <https://cgicanada.org/beliefs>
- Systematic Theology Project <https://cgicanada.org/stp>
- Booklets & sermons & Bible Helps

<b><i>EASTING (SPIRITUAL) STUDY</i></b>
<b>WHAT:</b> Ex. 34:28
<b>COMMANDED:</b> Lev. 23:27, 23:29; Matt. 6:16-18, 9:15; Mark 2:20; Luke 5:33-35
<b>WHY:</b> Isa 58:3-9; Ps 35:13, 69:10; Dan 9:3; Matt 7:21
<b>HOW:</b> Matt. 6:16-18; Isa. 58:3-4
<b>HOW NOT:</b> Luke 18:12
<b>EXAMPLES:</b> Judges 20:26; I Kings 19:8, 21:27; I Sam. 7:6; II Sam. 12:16-23; Neh. 1:4; Ps. 109:24; Matt 4:2; Luke 2:37; Acts 17:11, 13:2-3; Ex. 34:28
<b>STUDY:</b> I Cor. 4:16; II Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11, 18:24

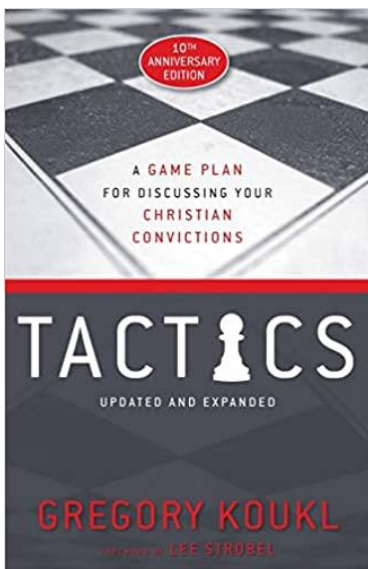
When selecting scriptures for our discussions ... there are **31,102** in the KJV Bible

What are some other subjects that we might be asked about in our roles as representatives for Jesus? “Christians” Perhaps this is a good topic for an after sermon discussion ... and what approaches or Guidelines might we consider in our evangelizing?

One guideline might be to *avoid simple questions with Giant answers!*

- What is God’s name? & Must we use the Sacred name for salvation?

Another technique is to ask questions ... to understand where the person is coming from... When people are asked questions, they’re often quite happy to share their opinions. Questions can be non-threatening, they let you learn more about the person’s views, and they let you move the conversation without seeming pushy or preachy. If you can guide the conversation with questions, you are better able to help.



- **“What do you mean by that?”** Many objections exist because people have never thought them through or clarified their meaning. When we ask them to clarify, it forces them to think more clearly, but it also prevents us from misunderstanding and misrepresenting them.
  - **10 Commandments are oppressive – I want freedom**
  - **Church people today are just homophobes**
- **“How did you come to that conclusion?”** This question (it can be phrased in different ways) elicits the reasons why someone thinks the way that they do. When evaluating explanatory stories, we want to analyze whether something is possible, plausible, or probable.

(This reverses the burden of Proof—it’s their claim that is on the table, not your beliefs)

- Pro-Choice is the real Godly position

• **“Have you ever considered?” ...a non threatening way to have them consider a point**

- When we are in the hot seat (i.e. overwhelmed by someone’s arguments or forcefulness), we shouldn’t try to establish our points or refute our opponent, we should allow them to talk and we should ask questions to understand them better. We can tell them that we’re **not sure what to say**, but we’d like to hear their views clearly and at length. Then we should thank them **and tell them we’d like to take some time to think about what they said.**
- It can also help to **“narrate the debate.”** We do this when we stop, take stock, and point out what is happening in the conversation (e.g. “I’ve asked you to clarify, but you just switched topics”).

**Between This & That** – Is our opportunity to **witness & evangelize**

An awesome example of evangelism...

### Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Act 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

Act 8:27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

Act 8:28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Act 8:30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Act 8:31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

Act 8:32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: **(Isaiah**

**53)** "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH.

Act 8:33 IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH."

Act 8:34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom

does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

Act 8:36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

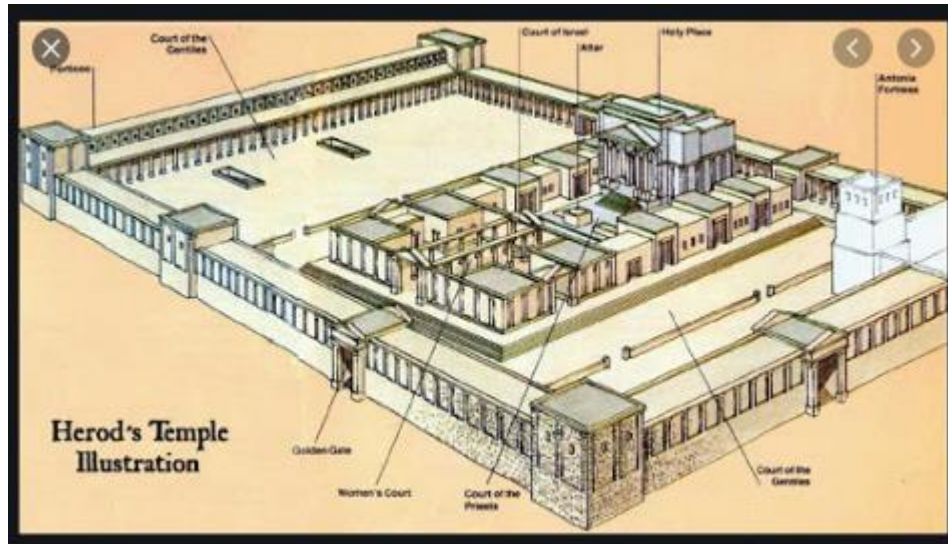
Act 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Act 8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Act 8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and **he went on his way rejoicing.**



In the course of Philip instructing about Jesus ... I expect he rolled the Isaiah scroll a little further ... Because God knows our needs & hopes & desires



A message to Foreigners & Eunuchs

Isa 56:1 Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed.

Isa 56:2 Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil."

Isa 56:3 Do not let the son of the **foreigner** Who has joined himself to the LORD Speak, saying, "The LORD has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the **eunuch** say, "Here I am, a dry tree."

Isa 56:4 For thus says the LORD: "To the **eunuchs** who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,

Isa 56:5 Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.

Isa 56:6 "Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—

Isa 56:7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Isa 56:8 The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him."

Deu 23:1 "He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.

**Between This & That** ... Perhaps we will be given opportunities to witness & evangelize as Philip did with the Eunuch. Let's take some time to **prepare** scriptures & testimonies for situations **we KNOW** will come up in life ... that we might ... **'Go out to the highways & hedges & compel people to come in, that God's house may be filled.** (Luke 14:23)