

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 14 Issue 32

August 11, 2019

WE CAN WORK IT OUT

I've been listening to the Beatles music a lot lately and continually amazed at not only the musical talent of the "fab four" but the outstanding lyrics full of positivity and love (after all, they do have a classic hit entitled "All You Need Is Love"). One that has been rolling around in my mind lately is the song, "We Can Work It Out". Pointing out the inevitable stalemate and lack of progress and agreement we often come to when stubborn attitudes and unwillingness to listen to one another is present in the middle of disagreements, it remains a great song encouraging us all to be willing to see the other side of arguments that we might find compromise and progress to move forward. "Try to see it my way,
Do I have to keep on talking till I can't go on? While you see it

your way, Run the risk of knowing that our love may soon be gone. We can work it out, We can work it out. Think of what you're saying. You can get it wrong and still you think that it's alright. Think of what I'm saying, We can work it out and get it straight, or say good night. We can work it out, We can work it out." Realizing our short time on this earth would be much better spent resolving our conflicts to live in unity, the lyrics plead to consider hearing each other out to spend more time accomplishing our goals together rather than fuming and fighting with one another. "Life is very short, and there's no time For fussing and fighting, my friend. I have always thought that it's a crime, So I will ask you once again. Try to see it my way, Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong. While you see it your way

There's a chance that we may fall apart before too long. We can work it out, We can work it out." It was a great encouragement to see several brethren come together recently to work out our differences in our understanding of church discipline and handling the situation where a member has left the congregation and no longer desires to faithfully attend and work with their brethren. As we studied together it became apparent in our discussion of the scriptures that there is a distinction between one who is flagrantly boasting their life of immorality all the while seeking to be among the faithful and one who simply has stopped attending services and no longer wishes to worship or serve God among us. In the dealing of the brother who was living with his father's wife, Paul emphasizes what was so egregious was not only was this a boastful sin that would be rare even in the gentile world, but they had the audacity to continue assembling and worshipping the Lord as if nothing were wrong. *"It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife,"* 1 Cor. 5:1-2. While all sin affects us and

damages our relationship with God and others, there are certain rebellious sins which fly so flagrantly in the face of a congregation seeking to uphold God's standard of morality and purity which must be dealt with immediately and severely when they are present. Paul specifies it is the bold, unrepentant rebellious action of immorality (sexual immorality, coveting, idolatry, reviling, drunkenness, swindling, etc... – 1 Cor. 5:11) which must be met with swift, severe discipline which essentially amount to excommunicating such a one from both the spiritual fellowship shared in worship as well as their social life. *"In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus,"* 1 Cor. 5:4-5. Such rebellious sinners must be physically removed from our spiritual fellowship in worship, as allowing them to be present would be to corrupt the purity and sincerity of taking the Lord's Supper together. *"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has*

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



Belonging To The Governor of the City

A Past and present collided last week when an extremely rare seal impression discovered in Jerusalem's Western Wall plaza and bearing the inscription "Belonging to the governor of the city" was presented to Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. According to site excavator Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah, "This is the first time that such an impression was found in an authorized excavation. It supports the biblical rendering of the existence of a governor of the city in Jerusalem 2,700 years ago. At the presentation, Barkat said, "It is very overwhelming to receive greetings from First Temple-period Jerusalem. This shows that already 2,700 years ago, Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, was a strong and central city." The bottom section reads, in early Hebrew script: "Belonging to the governor [*sar*] of the city." Weksler-Bdolah explains that the governor most likely functioned much like today's mayor. The role is referenced in the Hebrew Bible: in 2 Kings, Joshua is listed as the governor of the city in the days of Hezekiah, and in 2 Chronicles, Maaseiah is noted as governor of the city in the days of Josiah. "The Bible mentions two governors of Jerusalem, and this finding thus reveals that such a position was actually held by someone in the city some 2700 years ago, said Weksler-Bdolah. The minuscule clay seal impression, or docket, was found while researchers were examining the dust from a First Temple structure 100 meters northwest of the Western Wall at a site the Israel Antiquity Authorities has been excavating since 2005. The excavations have offered up insights into Jerusalem's Second Temple and Roman periods, as well as a massive Iron Age four-room building where an eclectic collection of six other seals were uncovered, whose origins point to a thriving cosmopolitan Iron Age center or settlement. "The seal impression had been attached to an important transport and served as some sort of logo, or as a tiny souvenir sent on behalf of the governor."



been sacrificed. *Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,*” 1 Cor.

5:7-8. Paul clarifies exactly what he is referring to with the old testament reference from Deuteronomy 13:5 of the severe discipline of physically removing severe cases of rebellious immorality by actually putting them to death.

“Remove the wicked man from among yourselves,” 1 Cor. 5:13.

While this is to be severe and swift and without hesitation, there are other cases, such as those who have stopped attending services or have drifted away in unfaithfulness which must be addressed with a more delicate level of patience seeking to win them over and help heal their weaknesses.

“Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them...My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock,”

Ezekiel 34:4, 8. In such cases where our brethren are drifting

back into the world, becoming prey to the sinful damage that can be done to them, no longer assembling themselves with the faithful to be strengthened, we must search for them, seek to heal them, and bring them back. We pray we may always be able to restore those who have become weak and sickly and falling more and more prey to the temptations of the devil by falling back into the world.

However after efforts have been made and sadly, when such ones refuse to come back, we cannot continue to consider them faithful members and must revoke their membership as they no longer seek to assemble or faithfully work alongside us.

“And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down,’” Luke 13:7-9.

– Daniel Ruegg