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HYPOCRISY

It is a sorry thing to engage in lies, deceit, lip service, etc. But that is exactly what the hypocrite does. The hypocrite is like a play-actor, pretending to be something he is not. Too often, hypocrisy takes place among those claiming to be children of God. Shame on you and shame on me if/when that's the case with us. The Bible speaks of hypocrisy and clearly shows it to be sin. 1 Peter 2:1 - *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking."* This is what the Christian is to do. Lay aside hypocrisy. Let it not be named among believers. Job 27:8 - *"For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much if God takes away his life?"* What hope has the hypocrite? Certainly not Heaven! He has no hope.

Tragic! Matthew 25:41 - Jesus speaks of the unfaithful servant being appointed *"...his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Here the Lord specifies the hypocrite's place with all the lost. Hell will be home for the pretenders. Friend, if you claim to be a Christian, be Christ-like. Guard your body and mind. Be pure. Don't be a hypocrite! **Editor's Note:** Our gospel meeting with bro. McPherson ends today. It has been a treat having brother McPherson and his family with us. We're looking forward to a good day of worship to God (Jn. 4:24) and Bible study (II Tim. 2:15). David has done his best to preach the word, and it is our duty to take it and water it (I Cor. 3:6)! I believe much good

will come from this gospel meeting (Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 1:16)! Please read the articles written by bro. McPherson in this bulletin and profit from the study. – David McPherson **“Your Life Is Like Grass.”** Throughout the Scriptures, God reminds us of the frailty of human life. No matter how long we may live on Earth, our life is but a speck in comparison to eternity. The thought of grass is often used to emphasize our life’s brevity. For example: Psalm 103:15 – *“As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.”* Luke 12:28 – *“If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?”* 1 Peter 1:24 – *“Because all flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away.”* Just as the grass or flower soon loses its freshness, is withered or cut down, so it is with our physical life. This should not be a depressing fact, but rather motivation to do good and bring glory to God in the short life span that we have. Also, it’s a good reminder that the suffering

and trials endured in this life won’t be long for the faithful. Hang in there. Love life and see good days. Serve the Lord. – David McPherson **“Jealousy, Envy, Bitterness”** One of the saddest things in the world is to see a person who looks like he’s been weaned on a lemon. Various circumstances can no doubt trigger this miserable look. Oftentimes, it is the result of a heart filled with jealousy, envy, and bitterness. Folks, the Bible has something to say about such qualities. *“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice”* (Eph. 4:31). *“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy”* (Rom. 13:13). *“For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”* (1 Cor. 3:3). *“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”* (Jas. 5:9). *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* (1 Pet. 2:1-2). If

you have bitterness and envy in your heart toward another, get it out. As God warned Cain, *"...sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it"* (Gen. 4:7). THINK! – David McPherson

"What Is Your 'Food'?" In John 4:31-34, we are told of Jesus, *"In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat of which you do not know.' Therefore, the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'"* Jesus' focus, His priority, His "food" was to do God's will. What is your "food"? Often, I fear we give in to the temptation of concerning ourselves solely with the day-to-day grind. True, the daily affairs have their place and must be respected, but let us take heed and not get them out of proportion. Our focus, our priority, our main "meat" needs always to be the doing of God's will. I have seen brethren become overwhelmed with the different "hats" they wear. One particular brother I encountered was stressed by

the worry of trying to be the best husband, father, employee, etc. What was needed was a zeroing-in on being the best Christian he could be. Take care of that one, and the others fall in line (Matt. 6:33). Let us make it our "food" to do the will of God. Today, tomorrow, forever. – David McPherson

"Learning From Little Children" *"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 18:3). Jesus here shows our need to be more like little children in certain ways. Little children are loving, quick to forgive, pure, humble, etc. There is much good that we who are older can gain by observing those younger. Likewise, we can learn needed lessons from songs that have been designated as "children's songs." Think about the song, "The B-I-B-L-E." It tells how the Bible is "the book for me." Singers make the commitment to "stand alone on the word of God" and to "read and study, and then obey, the B-I-B-L-E." Oh, how much better our world would be if adults would sing and practice the lyrics of that simple song! – David McPherson

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



Smiting Gods Found From Baal Worship

A pair of smiting gods and other rare ritual artifacts are among the fascinating discoveries described in a recently published comprehensive report of the 2013-2017 excavations of the archaeology-rich Lachish site. The report digs deep into 12th century BCE Canaanite worship practices, from the modest temple structure, to ritual items discovered inside. Israeli archaeologist Yosef Garfinkel uncovered the ruins of a Canaanite temple from the 12th century B.C. The excavation site, located in Lachish, one of the most important Old Testament cities in the region, has yielded a trove of artifacts used in Canaanite worship, including jewelry, daggers, and two four-inch-tall bronze figurines of “smiting gods.” Perhaps the most significant discovery at the temple is a bronze scepter coated with silver. Garfinkel believes it was held by a human-sized statue of the Canaanite god Baal. The statue itself was not found, but large statues of ancient Canaanite gods are rare. “This excavation has been breathtaking,” said lead archaeologist Professor Yosef Garfinkel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Institute of Archaeology in a press release on Monday. The excavation report, “The Level VI North-East Temple At Tel Lachish,” was recently published in the academic journal *Levant: The Journal of The Council for British Research In the Levant*.



“Only once every 30 or 40 years do we get the chance to excavate a Canaanite temple in Israel. What we found sheds new light on ancient life in the region. It would be hard to overstate the importance of these findings,” said Garfinkel, who led the excavation along with Professor Michael Hasel of Southern Adventist University in Tennessee.