

Message# 280_3-17-2024 - "Baptisma in the Name of..."

Preached first on 3/17/2024 on www.molibertyradio.us

Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

I heard from Doug this week. He reported that he is back on a healing track and is doing better emotionally, as well. He has ordered some high performance crutches - and he says that his hopes are that it will allow him to go hiking. Alright, that's great Doug. Now let's not get too crazy with this. The last thing you need right now is to tangle with a mountain lion out there in California. And also, speaking of Doug and Mindy, they are talking about coming back to the midwest some time this spring and if they gave us enough notice, maybe we could have some gathering to get together with other believers.

I have good news to report concerning Chrissy. She told Teresa that she thinks she might be turning the corner on finally getting better. It's been a long time coming. Josie is now 9 weeks old. That's just crazy how time flies. Please continue, though, to keep Chrissy in your prayers. Thank you to all those who write in and let us know she is in your prayers.

Back on the prayer list again - not because he is asking - but because I am asking. As Jeff was listening to the message last weekend - some people dressed in weird clothing - I said weird clothing because it's clothing that is designed to make people look like they have some sort of authority. Looks even somewhat like an army. They have guns and tasers and handcuffs - very intimidating, I suppose, if you allow that intimidation. I'm guessing they came to kidnap him because he's such a terrible person in their view.

According to their definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, you know, Jeff doesn't have a piece of metal on his vehicle with the correct letters and numbers that have determined to be good. So, Jeff must be put behind bars - go to jail - be kidnapped - in the name of their definitions of good and evil - all because of a piece of metal that they say must be affixed to his car. They didn't take him. I don't know if they are going to continue to pursue or it not. My suspicion is that they will.

I hope you are talking to people about this. Not just Jeff. And not just in this particular thing - but in all things related to the fact that it is absolute rebellion. It's what should have been learned from the Bible - from the very beginning of the Creation of man.

Do you not see this the same way I do? Isn't this as clear as can be? Didn't God tell Adam - "I am the one Who defines good and evil. You are not to make your own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong. In the day you decide to take that to yourself, you will surely die!" Isn't that what God was saying to Adam and Eve in the story of the Garden of Eden?

Or are we sidetracked with fighting and arguing about whether there was an actual talking snake there? Whether it was an apple or an orange. All these little bedtime story details that don't amount to anything - unless - we are able to understand the purpose of the story. The purpose of the story is that God established for mankind - from the beginning - that He and He alone is the One Who defines good and evil.

For just a few minutes this morning - because this will fit in perfectly with the message them we are on - the Authority of Christ - go back with me to Genesis chapter 2. There is not a whole lot of difference between the Septuagint and the KJV, so let's read from the KJV just to make it easier for everyone to follow along. Let's begin with verse 1. Continuing because I asked you to pray for Jeff. Is it correct to say that God never intended for men to make their own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong? Verse 1, chapter 2.

[1] Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

[2] And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.

Here's something else we should fight about. Whether than focus on what is the most important thing about these two chapters - the principle surrounding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - also called the tree of life. The tree of life. How men are supposed to live. It's the tree of life, for goodness sake. Rather than get to the root of understanding the principle of that tree - let's devote all sorts of time to infighting about what "day" is the seventh day here in Genesis 2. It just cracks me up - and I've said this before - in a bad way - to hear people say - "Saturday sabbath" or Sunday "sabbath." Saturday - the day devoted to the worship of the false Roman god Saturn.

Calling days which should be exclusively related to the God of Heaven and the Creation that He made - referring to them with devotion to pagan gods - and then intermingling with a Bible term - called Sabbath - if it weren't so sad - it would be hilarious. How stupid to sit there and argue over a "Saturday sabbath" or a "Sunday sabbath."

Distractions. All sorts of distractions to make sure people do not focus on what is truly important.

The physical 24 hour day Sabbath of the Old Covenant (in my opinion) - pointed to the spiritual rest found in Christ in the New Covenant. Add that to blood sacrifices. Add it to the physical washings. Add it to the physical circumcisions. Add it to the physical temple. Am I telling someone that God did away with the requirements of physical rest? No, I'm not. Work 7 days a week with no rest for a lifetime - see what happens to your body. There are principles there. But fighting over which day? That's ridiculous and that's my point here. It's a religious diversion that has at least as one purpose in the "church world" to make sure people do not come to the understanding of the main purpose of this story in Genesis 2 and 3. Verse 3.

[3] And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

One more thing. If you believe in a physical, 24 hour Sabbath - and I have never fought against that - I've never told someone to forsake that belief if that is what they believe - but I will tell you this - the seventh day that is spoken of here in verse 3 - was not called Sunday - and it certainly was not called Saturn's day. My personal opinion is that if a man wants to know what the seventh day that God was speaking about - more than likely - that day was determined by the position of the moon - not by some God forsaken, pagan calendar that refers to a pagan deity to name its days after.

[4] These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

[5] And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

[6] But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

[7] And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

[8] And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

[9] And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

It almost seems like we are meant to understand this as two trees. I don't think that is what is meant here. As we continue, I think it was one tree, with two names - an also known as. The tree of life, also known as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So God creates man. Puts him in a garden. And right in the middle of that garden - again - are we to understand that as the geographic position of the tree? Maybe. Certainly wouldn't make an argument against that if someone wants to say that. But more importantly - because we don't even know if this was an actual event - or allegory - it doesn't matter. What matters is that we understand what the principle is. So is it geographically important - or does the "midst of the garden" mean - this was the centerpiece of the garden. This was the most important tree in the garden. This is what everything in the garden revolves around. The tree of life, also known as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - is the most important tree that Adam was set in front of. In the center of all the trees that God made - the centerpiece was the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We could stay here for weeks and weeks. This is the beginning of Creation. This is right after God created Adam.

God created Adam - and then set him directly in front of that tree. "Adam, of all the trees in this garden that I have made - this one is the most important. This one is the tree of life. Everything in life springs from this tree. Understanding what this tree signifies is the most important thing I need for you to understand."

And the reality is, men have spent more time arguing about talking snakes and days of the week - than they have in understanding the principle surrounding the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. "That's an apple tree. That's a cherry tree. That's a peach tree." Those stupid "church" arguments have been way more important to most men - than the understanding of what "the knowledge of good and evil" means.

I shared with you a while back that I found atheists, Bible haters, God haters, trying to say that this meant that God did not want man to know the difference between good and evil. And, just like all the rest of the atheist arguments - people who think they know something about the Bible - ignorant, lost, impossible to discern a Book they despise - it's not about knowing the difference between right and wrong - it's about claiming the power or authority to make those definitions yourself.

This is one of the reasons why the atheist needs to get rid of the Bible. The Bible is the definitive decider of what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong. Take

the Bible away, discredit the Bible, just like NASA does, and what does that leave? It leaves *man* is the decider of good and evil, right and wrong. That's one of the reasons why NASA gets 50,000,000 dollars a day. Discredit the Bible so that the u.s. "government" is the one with the power, the authority to define right and wrong - then use men with silly suits and badges - not so silly when they have guns attached to them - they send those people into the community to enforce their definitions of good and evil, right and wrong.

And again, let me make this perfectly clear. There is a place for the sheriff. There is a place for the police man - though that is not a Bible term. Sheriff is in the Bible, police man isn't. The sheriff, the police man, would have my 100% support - if they were in place to apprehend and bring to justice - people who have broken the very few Laws of God.

Thou shalt not murder. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not rape and commit perjury.

But kidnapping people (like Jeff), taking their money away, taking their property away - because men refuse to obey the definitions of mere men? No way. I'll stand against that until I no longer have any breath in this body. It's wrong. Man does not have the authority from God to make up their own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong - that's what they call "laws" - they call themselves "lawmakers" - that is wrong - that is horribly wrong in the eyes of God. There is One Lawgiver. That's what the Bible has said for hundreds of years and people still don't get it. Moving yourself from one place to the next without "government id" is not sin. Moving yourself from one place to the next without a piece of metal on your vehicle is not sin.

I've said this before, the words crime or crimes is found only 5 times in our English Bibles. God is concerned with sin - not crime. Think of crime as breaking man's "laws." Sin is breaking God's Laws and that's the only thing we should be concerned with. The sheriff and the police man need to be concerned with sin - not with crime. If they were concerned with sin - I'd be the first one to support them. Verse 10.

[10] And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

[11] The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

[12] And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

[13] And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

[14] And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

[15] And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

So again now. We see - is it allegory - or is this exactly the way it happened like a scene in a movie or play - doesn't matter - look what is happening. We get brought back to the fact that God took Adam, put him in the garden to dress it and to keep it - then look at the very first thing it says that God says to the man:

[16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,

He didn't tell Adam this was a good idea. He didn't tell Adam this was a suggestion. This was a commandment. This was a Law of God. And it's the first one. It's the first commandment. It's consistent, also, with the codified Commandments that God gave Moses.

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

That is exactly what God is telling Adam right here. And it was a commandment, it was not a suggestion.

[16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

[17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In this part of the story, that's the first thing God says to Adam when He puts him in the garden. "See this tree? This tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Do not eat this tree. This tree does not belong to you - thou shalt not steal. When you eat from this tree - you are making yourself as god. God is the Lawmaker. God is the One Who decides what's good and what's evil. You are not to be as God."

Friends, if I'm all washed up about this - someone better set me straight. Because I believe this is the tree of life. This is the way of life. This is how God intended for people to live. People have lost sight of this. The Israelites continually lost sight of it. One of the

reasons why Jesus, the Messiah King was sent - was to bring people back to this. To give sight to the blind. "You've lost your way. You've left the first understanding from Creation. Men are to obey God and not man. You can eat from all these others trees - just leave this one tree alone."

Living this way brings the most amount of freedom, prosperity, peace, that men could ever know. With the God of Creation - there's only a handful of "thou shalt and shalt not." His Way is not burdensome. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Why men prefer burdens, prefer rules, prefer regulations, miles and miles of "laws, statutes, etc.," is beyond me.

I was telling Teresa this week. If you watch these systems of men, with their courts, and the judges, and their cops and persecutors, then all the lawyers and clerks, and jails and prisons and all of that. Who stands to lose the most - if the Laws of God were lived - if the Tree of Life was lived by - who stands to lose the most? Well, if the Laws of God were enforced - even as rampant as sin is today - if the Laws of God were enforced - sin would decrease - I was going to try to put a percentage and time-frame on it - but that would be folly - but sin would decrease immensely and quickly - if the Laws of God were enforced. If the Laws of God were enforced - and sin was reduced in civilization quickly - who would stand to lose the most? That's simple. It's so simple, it deserves a chuckle. The people who make their livings off of crime - would hate to see crime diminish - because they might lose their way of living.

Example: Drunken driving. If a man or woman, boy or girl drives drunk or drives under the influence of drugs - prescription or otherwise - anything that impairs the senses - doesn't matter if man has called it legal - if an impaired individual kills someone else - according to the Laws of God - what should be the punishment? The punishment would be the death penalty if there was a death involved.. If the Laws of God were enforced for drunken driving - and - according to Ecclesiastes 8:11, look at it with me:

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

If drunk drivers who killed people were executed quickly, drunken driving would - maybe not be altogether eliminated - but common sense would tell you that it would dramatically decrease - and decrease quickly. But, because sentence against evil is not properly executed - and not properly executed speedily -

therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Sin continues. I'm telling you that the courts of men are not interested at all in doing away with drunken driving. They stand to lose too much. Drunken driving is a financial boon for the courts, for the lawyers, for everyone involved. Listen to this. The link is in the notes.

<https://www.safehome.org/resources/dui-statistics/>

DUI Statistics and Trends: 2023 Annual Report

Deadly wrecks involving drunk drivers increased 14% between 2020 and 2021, and 1 in 5 motorists admitted to driving drunk last year.

One in five? Are you kidding.

therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

That's what the Word of God says. Their own statistics scream that what they are doing with the judgments of their definitions of good and evil, right and wrong - is not working.

In 2020, alcohol consumption among adults over 30 increased significantly in the U.S., as people isolated in their homes during a stressful pandemic. Soon, statistics showed an increase in deadly car crashes involving drunk drivers.

But as life returned to normal and businesses opened their doors in 2021, drunk driving deaths only continued to rise. To understand these troubling trends and follow up on our past DUI reporting, we examined National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data for 2021, the most recent year available. We also explored the latest data from 2021 on DUI arrests from the FBI.

Here are some of our key findings:

The number of deadly drunk-driving crashes rose again in 2021, killing 13,384 people. About 31% of all fatal crashes in 2021 involved drunk drivers.

About 45% of traffic deaths in Montana involved drunk drivers in 2020, the highest rate among all states.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of drunk drivers involved in deadly crashes increased most in Alaska, the District of Columbia, and Idaho.

Nationally, DUIs make up about one in 10 arrests. In Pennsylvania, about 25% of all arrests in 2021 were for drunk or intoxicated driving.

One out of four!

In 2022, about 20% of drivers reported driving drunk at least once, and 10% said they did it often.

How Often Does Drinking Lead to Traffic Fatalities?

According to the NHTSA, fatal drunk-driving accidents rose in 2020 for the first time in five years and rose again in 2021. There were 13,384 people killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2021 (about one person every 39 minutes), an increase of 14% over the previous year. About 31 percent of all fatal car crashes in 2021 involved drunk drivers.

Skipping down the article.

How Often Are People Arrested for DUI?

Of course, the most tragic result of drinking and driving is the loss of human life, but DUIs can create the risk of legal implications. Police arrested more than 443,000 people on suspicion of DUI in 2021, the most recent year for available FBI data. The number could be far higher since large states like Florida did not contribute to the latest FBI reporting.

Only simple assault and drug-related charges were more common crimes than DUI in 2021. Still, the 2021 DUI arrest figure represents a massive decline from the nearly 1 million people arrested in 2014.

Nationally, DUI accounts for about one in 10 arrests, which is much higher in some states. In Pennsylvania, about 25 percent of all arrests in 2021 were for drunk or intoxicated driving.

Seems to me like it is in the financial best interest of some people - for drunken driving - to not be done away with. But of course, that's just stupid. That's just Charlie being

done.

The love of money being the root of all evil - is passe'. That went out with the rest of the Bible. Enough of that, now, back to verse 18, from Genesis 2.

[18] And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

[19] And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

It's perfectly fine for men to name things. They can give their children a name. They can give their animals names. And I'll say this. They can even name the days of the week if they want to. Can't name them after pagan gods - but they could name stars in the constellation if they wanted to. That reminds me of something. I keep meaning to go back each week and tell you this, but I keep forgetting, so let me do it now.

Remember several weeks ago - I told you I believe it is not Biblically correct to call this world - the land and the seas - a planet. And I told you that the word planets is only found in the English Bible one time. We went there and read it. I told you that God created the sun, the moon and the stars. But, in the KJV in II Kings 23, the text says the sun, the moon and the planets. But what I failed to tell - is in that verse of Scripture - the word planets means the stars that make up - what men have called the Zodiac. Those are the stars, the constellations, for telling time, seasons, etc. Our world is not a planet - according to the Bible. Stars - specifically the stars that make up the constellations - those are what the Bible calls planets. So be vary wary of people who call themselves Bible teachers and they want to talk about creation, and their solar system and their spinning ball - and they call this world a "planet" - they do not know the Bible as it relates to the Genesis account of Creation and what the terms are the Bible uses.

Ok. Back to Genesis 2:20. I need to hurry now.

[20] And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

God allows man a lot of freedom. With the Laws of God - man can enjoy more freedom

than he could probably handle.

[21] And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

[22] And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

[23] And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

[24] Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Shouldn't be a whole lot of discussion here. This should have been settled a long long time ago. Amazing that civilization has to go back and deal with this again. So simple.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Very simple. Very easy.

[25] And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Now, chapter 3. Switching to the Septuagint because there's some pretty neat things about the way it says this.

NOW the serpent was the most crafty of all the brutes on the earth,

The serpent was crafty. The Greek here is *phronimos* which means this, very interesting:

phrónimos (an adjective, derived from 5424 /*phrén*, "personal perspective regulating outward behavior," and the root of the English term "diaphragm" which controls key body functions from the inside out) – properly, "how we size things up," reflecting our personal ("visceral") opinions, i.e. what we consider "savvy" (smart). This always roots to our personal perspective ("inner outlook") which regulates our definition of being "shrewd," i.e. reflects personal mind-set (insight). See 5426 (*phroneō*).

This serpent, this creature, in my opinion, in this allegory, was the most knowledgeable of a perspective regulating personal behavior. It was the most knowledgeable relating

to the understanding of the tree of life - which was perspective regulating personal behavior. The way God said to live. Living according to the definitions of good and evil as defined by God. I don't know what else this can be. To me, this is as simple as it gets. We are talking about the way God expects people to live. Government. Control of the mind. Is the mind, concerning good and evil, right and wrong - is it Governed - is it controlled - is it regulated - by the way God said to live - or by the way man says to live.

Men's little g “governments” are in place to tell people how they want people to live. It is not about telling people to live the way God said to live. This should be so simple, so easy to understand. We are to live according to the tree of life - God's tree - or live according to man's tree - man's “laws, statutes, judgments”, etc.

NOW the serpent was the most crafty of all the brutes on the earth, which the Lord God made, and the serpent said to the woman, Wherefore has God said, Eat not of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said to the woman, Ye shall not surely die. 5 For God knew that in whatever day ye should eat of it your eyes would be opened, and ye would be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The Greek word for knowing here is ghin-ocē'-ko and it means to come to know, to perceive, to recognize, which is simple, but the key to this understanding is in the phrase “ye would be as gods” - theos in the Greek - properly, God, the Creator and owner of all things. In the Hebrew, it's elohim, which means

אֱלֹהִים 'ēlôhîym, el-o-heem'; plural of H433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:—angels, × exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), × (very) great, judges, × mighty.

I believe this is all about the eternal principle established in the Bible - that God and God alone is the Lawmaker. He is the One Who determines right and wrong. That's what Elohim does. That's what Theos does. This cannot mean that God does not want His Creation to know the difference between good and evil. We are told throughout the entire Bible things that are good and things that are evil. Good is called righteousness many times, evil is called sin. This is not a matter of a talking snake telling Eve that God does not want her to know the difference between right and wrong. It's this serpent,

this crafty brute - telling Eve that she does not have to obey the definitions of good and evil by God - but she can make her own definitions - and if she does - it isn't going to kill her. "It's not like it's going to kill you, Eve. It's not that big of a deal."

Speaking of crafty brutes. Where else have we seen this? This is another one of the neat things about the Septuagint. Seeing the English translated from the Greek. Keep your finger here in Genesis 3 and turn to II Peter chapter 2. Lately, I've been hearing a lot from people concerning Satan, the serpent, etc. As early as Genesis chapter 3, we see that serpent referred to as the most crafty of the brutes. Let's see where else we find the brutes. In this chapter, wherever we see the enemies of Christ, think of the crafty brute from Genesis 3. This is II Peter chapter 2, read from verse 1.

- [1] But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- [2] And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- [3] And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you:

Does this not sound familiar? Virtually every system that this world has created for itself - makes merchandise of people. People are called human resources. There's a fee attached to just about everything that people want to do in life.

whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

- [4] For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
- [5] And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
- [6] And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;
- [7] And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:
- [8] (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)
- [9] The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Stop right there for just a minute. Verse 8 again.

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

I ask you again, by what definition is used here in determining unlawful deeds? Did Sodom and Gomorrah get destroyed for violating their laws? Or did they get destroyed for violating God's Laws? From what Lawbook were there unlawful deeds defined? I submit to you that that should be one of the easiest questions for anyone to understand. Unlawful is defined by acts that break the Laws of God. That should be as easy as anything ever was to understand.

[10] But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise Government.

Take your Bibles there and get out a pen and change the little g to a capital G. This is not talking about men's little g "governments." This is talking about Government according to the Laws of God. This is talking about living by the definitions of good and evil as defined by God - not by men.

Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Dignities. Totally distinct, totally different than men calling each other dignitaries. The Biblical definition is:

opinion, judgment, view

opinion, estimate, whether good or bad concerning someone

in the NT always a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honour, and glory splendour, brightness

of the moon, sun, stars

magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace

majesty

a thing belonging to God

the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity

a thing belonging to Christ

the kingly majesty of the Messiah

the absolutely perfect inward or personal excellency of Christ; the majesty of the angels as apparent in their exterior brightness

a most glorious condition, most exalted state

of that condition with God the Father in heaven to which Christ was raised after he had achieved his work on earth

the glorious condition of blessedness into which is appointed and promised that true Christians shall enter after their Saviour's return from heaven

This is dignities - as if it has anything to do with mere men. It could - if and when men are making opinions and judgments that are in accordance to the Laws of God. But outside of that - it is 100% wrong to refer to mere men as dignities.

Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

This is talking about the way men are determined to live according to their own will - and going so far as to blaspheme the God of Heaven in refusing to live by God's definitions of good and evil. Verse 11.

[11] Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

[12] But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Men's little g "governments" are the epitome of corruption. Men's systems that they have created for themselves, economic, social, etc., are the epitome of corruption. It's rampant, it's everywhere. Everyone chasing money and doing whatever it takes to get it and get as much as they can.

But these, as natural brute beasts,

I don't want to mislead here. This is not the same Greek word as found in Genesis chapter 3, but it's the same English translation. We are still talking about the same things. The brute beasts - are not wild animals, like lions and tigers, it's figurative. Just like I believe the serpent was in Genesis chapter 3. It is descriptive for men who refuse to be Governed by God - but instead - are selfwilled - they refuse to be Governed by God - but by their own will - and they beguile people into believing that they can create their own "governments" - and "God didn't really say that, God didn't really mean that you would die if you did that."

[13] And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

[14] Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

[15] Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

forsaken the right way...

What was the right way? "This tree, the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of this tree. You can have all these others - just not this one."

That was the right way.

Gone astray. Following the way of Balaam, loved the wages of unrighteousness.

"God really didn't tell you, you couldn't make your own definitions of right and wrong. You really aren't going to die if you do that."

[16] But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

In righteous indignation, do you ever want to say that about someone? I know I do. Well, next time you feel that urge - just quote this verse and get it out of your system.

[17] These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

[18] For when they speak great swelling words of vanity,

Who does this? When you think of great swelling words of vanity? Who comes to mind? For me, it's politicians and preachers - 501(c)(3) government preachers, that is.

they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

[19] While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption:

Again. When you hear promises of liberty? What comes to mind? Politicians and 501(c)(3) government preachers. But what do you get? Do you get liberty? Or do you get more restrictions. More laws. More ordinances. More taxes, more fees. Is "government" more corrupt or less?

for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

[20] For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

[21] For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness,

than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

[22] But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

The knowledge of Christ frees us from the entanglements and the pollutions of the world. It's the way of righteousness - of right living. Yielding to the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ is what it means to obtain the knowledge of the Lord - the One Who is Supreme in Authority. Take your Strong's Concordance and look up the word Lord - as it pertains to Jesus Christ. It's the One Who is Supreme in Authority. We are to escape the entanglements of the world - by yielding to and following the Lord and Saviour. He has saved us from this world of corruption. He is the Lord and the Saviour. Jesus the Christ - the Anointed King.

Running out of time. Quickly turn to Jude. Read beginning in verse 1. It's nearly identical to what we read in II Peter 2 but with a few little twists.

[1] Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

[2] Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

[3] Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

[4] For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ [the One Who is Supreme in Authority].

[5] I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

[6] And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

[7] Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

[8] Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

We're talking about despising the Dominion of Christ. We are talking about the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ. We are talking about "I have all Power, all Authority in Heaven and in earth."

The ungodly have twisted this verse into the teaching that this is talking about men's little g "governments" when nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus told His disciples they were not to exercise dominion like the gentile kings of the earth. Jude, the brother of James, is not turning the clear Words of Jesus Christ upside down. This is about despising the Dominion, the Authority of Jesus Christ. Which is exactly what everyone is doing when they choose the dominion of the world - over the Dominion of Jesus Christ and the first we saw it was in Genesis 2 and 3 in the garden of Eden.

[9] Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

[10] But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

I have told you before how that when they were holding me captive, many of my captors told me they were doing what they were doing because they were ordained of God. Claiming to be ordained of God - then creating and enforcing your own definitions of good and evil is the ultimate degree of speaking evil of those things which they know not. To claim the Authority of God to do evil - is blaspheming the Holy Ghost. These people do not understand the teachings of the Bible anymore than their leaders could find "two Corinthians" in a Bible if they were given an hour to find it. They wouldn't know Corinthians from Chronicles - yet they claim to receive their Authority from the God of the Bible. Brute beasts which know nothing of the things they speak.

If a man is not advocating for the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ - over every aspect of life - he is nothing but a brute beast speaking evil of the things which he knows not.

[11] Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

[12] These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

[13] Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

[14] And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying,
Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

[15] To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

[16] These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Don't you dare fall into the trap that some men are more important than others because of how much wealth they have managed to accumulate. Whether it's Elon Musk, Donald Trump, Warren Buffet or whoever - if a man is not living by the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ - that man is condemned by everything God inspired Jude to write in these last several verses.

Gain is not godliness. The Bible says to avoid those who teach that gain is godliness.

[17] But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ [the One Who is Supreme in Authority];

[18] How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

Of course. Of course Jude refers to the time he was writing as the last time. It was the last time. It was the last days. The first century was the last days. It was the last days of the Old Covenant world and the first days of the New.

[19] These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

[20] But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

[21] Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Looking for the One Who is Supreme in Authority unto eternal life.

[22] And of some have compassion, making a difference:

[23] And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

[24] Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you

faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
[25] To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and ever. Amen.

Verse 25 sums up the Gospel. It sums up the final Words of Jesus Christ from Matthew 28. We just read two chapters contrasting the power of men, the lusts of men, the selfwill of men, the corruption of men - with the command to the followers of Jesus Christ to submit to the exclusive dominion of God. Pull others out of the fire, the fire of living according to the commands of men, of living according to the will of men, the fire of living according to the dominion of the kings of the gentiles. Living according to refusing to yield to the exclusive dominion of God, His glory, His majesty.

Which brings me now full circle to where I started this morning. Pray for Jeff. He is trying to live

faultless before the presence of God's glory with exceeding joy,
[25] To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and ever. Amen.

...and there are those around him who hate him for this and want to capture him and cause him harm. Pray that God will blind those brute beasts. That He will divert their attentions elsewhere and leave Jeff alone. But, if it be God's Will for Jeff to walk on through that fiery trial - pray that Jeff will have the strength to endure for the glory of God and His Son, and His Kingdom.