

West Valley Church of God  
P. O. Box 343  
San Fernando, CA 91341

## Pastors & Elders

**Pastor:** Ron and Norva Kelly  
**West Valley Elders**  
Carlton & Judy Green  
Cornell Smith

"An Old Story" Cont.

Submitted By John Brown

**Ninthly**, God willed that in his church some should be teachers, and some disciples; some more learned, to give instruction; others less skillful, to receive it; so as that the honor of the sacred scriptures and the divinely instituted ministry might, in this manner, be maintained."

Let the doctors  
handle your body,  
God handle your life,  
but be in charge of  
your own moods.



Everyday you MUST  
smile and laugh



## Quotes

Knowing what to say is not always necessary; just the presence of a caring friend can make a world of difference.  
~~~Sheri Curry

"Everything that's really worthwhile in life comes to us free—our minds, our souls, our bodies, our hopes, our dreams, our intelligence, our love of family and friends, and country. All of these priceless possessions are free."  
~~~Earl Nightingale



Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. ~~~Will Rogers

"One does nothing who tries to console a despondent person with word. A friend is one who aids with deeds at a critical time when deeds are called for."  
~~~Euripides

Friends share a special kind of closeness, where love binds together a patchwork of memories filled with laughter, and the heart always feels at home.  
~~~ Author Unknown

## Editor's Corner

● Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome **at any time**. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:  
**TheVineEditor@aol.com** -  
**Subject Line:** Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

**NOTICE...** Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor .



"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

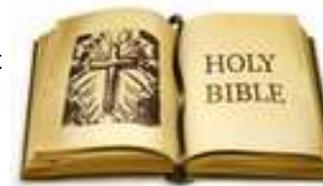
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**West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."**  
**Submissions: TheVineEditor@aol.com**  
We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge  
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325  
**Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - [www.westvalleywgc.org](http://www.westvalleywgc.org)**

## An Old Story

### Disputations on Holy Scripture by William Whitaker [1588]

After rebuking the false Roman Catholic notion that Scripture cannot be understood by the common man and reinforcing the Reformers insistence that every truth sinners must know to be saved can be gleaned by the simple from reading Scripture, William Whitaker next continued to explain that there are difficult passages in God's Word. Why? This is his answer...



down through the scriptures, in order that we should seek his help in interpreting them and discovering their true meaning.

**Secondly**, he wished thereby to excite our diligence in reading, meditating upon, searching and comparing the scriptures; for, if everything had been plain, we should have been entirely slothful and negligent.

**Thirdly**, he designed to prevent our losing interest in them; for we are ready to grow weary of easy things: God, therefore, would have our interest kept up by difficulties.

**Fourthly**, God willed to have that truth, so sublime, so heavenly, sought and found with so much labor, the more esteemed by us on that account. For we generally despise and contemn [scorn] whatever is easily acquired, near at hand, and costs small or no labor. But these things which we find with great toil and much exertion, those, when once we have found them out, we esteem highly and consider

## Upcoming Events

● **Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.**



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An Old Story (cont.)

their value proportionally greater.

**Fifthly**, God wished by this means to subdue our pride and arrogance, and to expose to us our ignorance. We are apt to think too honorably of ourselves, and to rate our genius and acuteness more highly than is fitting, and to promise ourselves too much from our science and knowledge.

**Sixthly**, God willed that the sacred mysteries of his word should be opened freely to pure and holy minds, not exposed to dogs and swine. Hence those things which are easy to holy persons, appear so many parables to the profane. For the mysteries of scripture are like gems, which only he that knows them values; while the rest, like the cock in AEsop, despise them, and prefer the most worthless objects to what is most beautiful and excellent.

**Seventhly**, God designed to call off our minds from the pursuit of external things and our daily occupations, and transfer them to the study of the scriptures. Hence it is now necessary to give time to their perusal and study; which we certainly should not bestow upon them, if we found everything plain and open.

**Eighthly**, God desired thus to accustom us to a certain internal purity and sanctity of thought and feeling. For they who bring with them profane minds to the reading of scripture, lose their trouble and toil: those only read with advantage, who bring with them pure and holy minds.

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## What is an Oath?

Did you know that, to God, an oath has the same strength and validity as a legal document? That is one reason our words are so important, and we will account for each one of them.

Oaths have taken different forms over the centuries, accompanied by various ceremonious customs of the day. *An example of this*, is the marriage covenant entered into by Boaz, Ruth's husband-to-be, in the Book of Ruth in the old testament of the Bible. If you will remember, he performed a ceremony acceptable under the circumstances of that day, and it was binding:

*Ru:4:7 "Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel."*

*Ru:4:8: Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.*

*Ru:4:9: And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.*

*Ru:4:10: Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of*

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*the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.*

Note that it was not the taking off of the shoe, but the swearing of the oath that was the binding factor. To whom did he swear the oath? To God. The shoe displacement was perhaps beneficial for the purposes of men, but not necessary to God, since God looks on the intent of the heart.



We can surely see that the model of ceremony has changed throughout history, and among various cultures, but it is the oath expressing the intent of the heart that God accepts. In this culture, regarding marriage ceremonies, it has long been customary to state, in essence, "whatever God has joined, let no man put asunder". It is **God** who does the joining.

God also has given power to mankind regarding oaths:  
*M't:18:18: Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

*M't:18:19: Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

*M't:18:20: For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* This further illustrates the power of the oath from God's perspective.

Another thing about oaths, or promises, is that they must be sincere. A false heart making a false oath is a dangerous and destructive thing. God sees this destruction as like death itself, and is why he hates a lie. Regarding promises to Abraham, God

"swore by his *own self*, because He could swear by no greater." God's own oaths are promises to us that *cannot* fail. He is entirely trustworthy; His words are all-powerful.

Jesus told us that His words were life itself, and true. If we wish to be more like Jesus, we are to be trustworthy, and since words are very powerful, we should also learn to control them (*not a simple thing!*). Jesus told us that if we "have the faith of a [tiny] mustard seed," we could literally move mountains, with just a word or two. Obviously, our faith needs work. We have first to learn to choose our words carefully. Can you imagine having the power of life and death, mountain moving and such, and having a disastrous "slip of the tongue"? That being said, what a valuable friend we would be if our words never failed.

~~~ Sharon Mills