



*The General Church of the
New Jerusalem*

PERTH CIRCLE

November 2004



Enter ye in at the strait gate... for wide is the way that leads to
destruction

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Living Your Religion

Erik Buss

"All religion is a matter of life and the life of religion is to do what is good."
Doctrine of Life # 1

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37

This article is addressing the question of how much we actually take the time to live what our religion teaches. I am writing it because I was just reading an article about a survey done in the USA by the Barna Group (www.barna.org). It was trying to discover if being a Christian had an impact on the divorce rate. It was quite an extensive survey of 3500 people, and what it found was that Christians had exactly the same divorce rate as non-Christians. The article continues, "Although ... Jesus taught that divorce was a sin unless adultery was involved, few Americans buy that notion." In fact two third of Americans strongly reject the notion that divorce without there being adultery is a sin, despite its being the Lord's direct, repeated teaching in the Gospels.

In the New Church we have much more teaching about the Lord's rules for divorce and remarriage that can fill out the picture quite substantially, and it is worth paying attention to this. I would be happy to talk about some of those nuances with anyone who is interested.

What I'm pondering right now, though is how much people in general are willing to actually accept what the Lord said as the Divine Law for our lives? The Lord said many things that made people feel uncomfortable, and they are supposed to make us uncomfortable at times because our lives don't match up to what He said.

So we may look at what the Lord said about adultery being the cause for divorce and remarriage, and say He really didn't mean that, or that is a bad translation, or He couldn't have meant that this or that reason didn't count.

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There are many other issues that provide similar challenges: The Lord taught that we are supposed to pay our taxes (Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" - Matthew 22:21), and the Writings say we are supposed to pay taxes "willingly and cheerfully" (True Christian Religion # 430). In hard economic times, we could all probably come up with a few good reasons why it is reasonable to cheat the tax man. Yet the Lord gave the teaching about paying taxes in the face of an occupying army in Israel.

The Lord also told us about how dangerous gossip is. He said "You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people" (Leviticus 19:16) and correlates it with murder.

A man named Edwin Friedman once said that the people who cause the most trouble in our lives all espouse excellent values. The problem is that they don't live them. Or to put it a different way, given the clear, beautiful, and powerful teachings in the New Church you would expect that people around us would be able to see distinct differences in the way we live our lives. Do they? Or do we just mouth the values?

Here is my question to you: How does knowing the Lord's teachings change your life? The study I just read says most Christians are not changing their lives in one of the most fundamental areas of human existence. The Lord's Word means nothing in that area.

Is that the case with us? I would hope not, and expect that you would give a different answer. But it is valuable from time to time to take a hard look at our lives and to ask what truths we are hiding from or ignoring. It has been said that we cannot The Lord's Word means nothing in that area. Is that the case with us? I would break the truth, but rather we break ourselves on the truth. The Lord's law describes the way it is, and we can either choose to accept the happiness it brings or reject it.

Good News ...A Gift to the Circle!!

From: Alaine.York@newchurch.org>

Altar Copy of the Word

Bishop Buss notified us that you had inquired after an altar copy of the Word for the Perth Circle. Such copies of the Word are routinely presented to a group formally becoming a Society of the General Church. But both Bishop Buss and Church of the New Jerusalem November 2004

Bishop Kline are very happy to present a copy as a gift to the Perth Circle at this time.

I have asked Tracey Thomas in the General Church Book Center to ship you the copy purchased this morning for the Perth Circle. It comes with best wishes from both the prior

Sincerely,

Alaine

Alaine F. York

Exec. Assistant, Bishop's Office

NEWS

Celebration of 5 year Anniversary

On the 24th we celebrated our 5 years anniversary. We swelled in numbers to 15 although unforeseen circumstances delayed 5 people, and the organ gave up on us! Fortunately Cynthia's CD was used to add music to the occasion.

Very appropriately we focused on the topic "How to pray " by Mike Gladish, and ended with a delightful luncheon under the trees at which we sang "Our Glorious Church" and a cake was cut by the oldest and youngest , Helen and Lisa.

We are very grateful for all the visits, retreats, worship services and doctrinal classes that have been arranged and organized during that time. It is wonderful to know that there are caring people who give time and effort into keeping the church alive and well, and that we have a vehicle for growth and a platform for the future.

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Garry Walsh's visit NOVEMBER 3rd

Rev Garry Walsh will visit us on 3rd November and lead us in a Holy Supper Service at 6.30pm. See calendar

"More Moore River"

A slice of life: drinking in the Word

Thirsty for truth and hungry for what's right.

Time stands still as community encloses

Friendships dear and spirits light and bright.

Moira, the hub, prepares us food and drink,

John sifts through "dogma" to make us think!

Helen forever listening begins to share her life

Norm kills flies and gives them strife.

Cynthia phones to check on her sausages,

Genevieve cooks hers but loses them in the dishes

Val listens, and asks, and gives when able,

Mary attempts to sweep under the table.

Lois tells us Kaitlin's fish net story!

Cynthia and Helen go on a climbing fore'

Margaret worries about teenage behaviour

And all throughout we worship Our Savior.

In amongst, before and aft these capers

There is Richard reading the papers!

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The walk by the river, the talking and the classes

Culminate in worship that all this surpasses.

When next we assemble in wood, beach or mead

We will enjoy the Lord's Word to do and to read.

November Calendar 2004

Wed November 3rd	Special Worship and Holy Supper with Garry Walsh	35 Ewing Ave 6.30pm followed by a cuppa and a doctrinal class.
Sun 7th	Worship 5pm followed by a shared meal	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thurs 11th	Doctrinal Class 7.30pm	Frost's Home Willeton
Sun 14th	Worship 10.30am followed by a shared meal	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Sun 21st	<u>Worship 10.30am</u> followed by a shared meal	10 Broome Street (off Douglas St.) South Perth
Thurs 25th	Doctrinal Class 7.30pm	Hart's Home Floreat

Sun 28th	Worship 10.30am followed by a shared meal	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Friday 3 rd December	Worship 5.30pm Holy Supper Bishop Peter Buss Shared meal 6.30pm	10 Broome Street South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Sat 4 th December	Class 3pm	Harts home
Sunday 5 th December	No worship at Broome street	

10 Broome Street, South Perth

(off Douglas Street)

***Worship at 10.30am every Sunday
except the first Sunday at 5pm.***

*Experience a new meaning and level of understanding
the Bible and Creation.*

*Reach new satisfying states of peaceful tranquillity
and calm through inner faith and deep conviction in
God's Divine plan for us.*