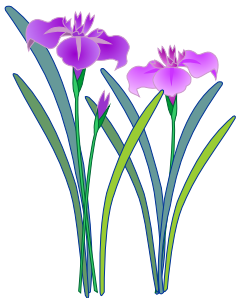


Simply Wonderful



“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. ” Psa 40:5

Simply Wonderful

Nothing seems to be simple anymore. Take a look at the new tax laws, or try to understand how gas prices are set, or even try to explain this thing called "the Web." In almost every aspect of life we are surrounded by complexities.

However, throughout the Bible, it is evident that God's directions to man have been very simple. One never has to wonder "what, exactly does He want me to do?"

In Genesis, God gave Adam one rule - do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). We know what happened there. Since Adam and Eve could not handle this one simple command sin entered into the world.

As a result of sin, God later on told Noah He was going to destroy the earth, but He would spare Noah and his family. Noah's task was to build an ark. Not just any ark, but one big enough for a pair of every kind of animal. Big job? Yes, but God gave him the directions. Noah did not have to design it, he did not have to calculate any measurements, nor did he have to figure out what materials to use. He was given the blueprint.

Jump forward a few hundred years, to the capture of Jericho by the children of Israel. Now Jericho wasn't just any old city. It was a military fortress sitting high on a hill. How would the Israelites prevail? Volumes have been written about the superiority of the war tactics of the Romans and those of Napoleon. But here a simple strategy was employed. The Lord told Joshua. "March around the city once for six days and seven times on the seventh day, then blow your trumpets, and shout." Joshua 6: 3-10. No strategic planning sessions, no war room briefings about complicated battalion positioning. Just march, blow and shout.

When Naaman, the captain of the Syrian army found himself stricken with leprosy, an incurable disease, he was instructed by Elisha to wash seven times in the Jordan river to be healed (2 Kings 5:10). That was it. No daily regimen of multiple doses of medicines, no "take 2 tablets four times a day for six days." No high priced MRI. No HMO's to deal with, just a simple instruction.

Today many seek the proverbial fountain of youth in order to attain longevity. They are willing to follow strict diet plans and intense exercise routines. The Lord freely and simply offers everlasting life and tells

us how to get it. "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 6:47 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..." Acts: 16:31. "...whosoever believeth on him hath everlasting life." John 3:16.

No pilgrimage to Mecca, no obeying a myriad of unkeepable laws, no yearly sacrifices, just believe. The hard part has already been taken care of - "the atoning work is done." Christ died on the cross, bearing our sin in His body.

Simply wonderful, wonderfully simple.

No. 17

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Scriptures from *The King James Version*

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