

“Teaching Others Also”

An article by David Piotrowski



“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Titus 2:2

UNDERSTANDING WORDS GOD’S DEFINITION OF RESPECT

To **know** what God says about **EVERYTHING**, Christians **must always** turn to His Word. Therefore, as Christians, we must **read His Word**, the **Bible**, so that we will be able, through His Holy Spirit, to **comprehend** the meanings of all that He has written to us.

With this in mind, this series of articles, will, **prayerfully**, help us better **understand**, from **God’s** perspective, the **meanings** of various words. This article, will concentrate on the word, “respect.” By better understanding what **God** means, when He uses **particular** words, such as, “respect,” we should be able to take “the next step,” and that is, we should be able, to **apply His** meanings, to our individual lives.

In the **Bible**, we find, **God** uses the word “respect,” quite frequently. Therefore, it is **important** that we, **fully**, comprehend, *its meaning*. Because **God** chose His Words with precision, we can **rely** upon their **exactness**. They were never used **accidentally**. He is the God of **TRUTH** (Deuteronomy 32:4). He **CANNOT** lie (Titus 1:2). God does **not** want us to **doubt His** Word. He does **not** want us to be confused (1 Corinthians 14:33). Furthermore, as we better understand His Word, we will grow into a **solid belief**, that **God’s** Word, contains **NO** contradictions! This should strengthen us. This should embolden us!

As English-speaking people, the Webster’s 1828, America’s Dictionary of the English Language, will be consulted. But, what we, as Christians, **really**, should want to **know**, is what **God** means, when **He** uses the word “respect.”

Genesis 2:25 says that, before the Fall, Adam and Eve “...*were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*” However, after they sinned, we read, in Genesis 3:7-10, “...*the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*”

So, we read, in Genesis 3:21 “*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them.*” Later, in Genesis 3:23, because of their sin, Adam and Eve were “*sent ... forth from the garden of Eden.*”

Genesis 4:1-7 says, “... **Adam** knew **Eve** his wife; and she conceived, and bare **Cain**, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother **Abel**. And **Abel** was a **keeper** of sheep, but **Cain** was a **tiller** of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that **Cain** brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And **Abel**, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD **had respect** unto **Abel** and to his offering: But unto **Cain** and to his offering he **had not respect**. And **Cain** was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto **Cain**, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? **If** thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And **if** thou doest not well, **sin** lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

Why did God have “respect” for **Abel**, while having no “respect” for **Cain**?

In order to answer this question, we need to understand how **God defines** “respect,” according to **His usage** of the word, and, according to the word’s context, relative to what **He is saying**, in **Scripture**.

In helping to define “respect” in terms of **God’s** usage and context, of the word, as it is recorded in Genesis 4:4-5, Webster utilizes these words: “**good will**,” and “**favor**.” God “avored” the “good will” of **Abel’s offering** (**verse 4**), but did **not** do so, for **Cain’s offering** (**verse 5**). Hebrews 11:4: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than **Cain**, by which he obtained **witness** that he was righteous, **God testifying** of his gifts, and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

Speaking to Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus says, in Matthew 23:35, “*That upon **you** may come **all the righteous blood** shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*” Jesus also called them hypocrites.

In Luke 11:51, Jesus, again, speaks of **Abel**, as He says, “*From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you (lawyers), It shall be required of this generation.*” **IT** refers to blood. **Abel’s blood** was shed as a prophet of God, as Verse 50 is clear: “*That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation.*”

Clearly, as Genesis 3:21 says, a sacrifice of blood was needed as a **substitute** for the sin that **Adam** and **Eve** had committed. A substitutionary atonement (or covering) required the shedding of innocent blood as a condition of forgiveness for sinners. The killing of two animals, and the shedding of their blood, **became the atonement** for Adam’s and Eve’s sin. Later, of course, **Jesus** would **sacrifice** Himself upon the cross for the sins of every man and woman, boy and girl, who has ever lived, and, for everyone born in the future. Revelation 1:5 says that **Jesus Christ** “... washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

God wants His people to **be** (and to **do**) their **best** for Him. Christians are to have the **faith** that it takes to **offer** “a more excellent sacrifice” to **God**. In so doing, God will consider them **righteous**, that the “testifying of [their] gifts”, though they be dead, will be an **everlasting testimony** to those who follow.

Every Christian can, and **should**, do more for **Christ**. **Every Christian should** do his or her **best**, for God. Despite the “cost,” and, for **Abel**, the “cost,” was his **life**, he avored God with the “respect,” He deserved. **Abel’s** actions demonstrated the love, obedience, and “respect,” he had, for God. He gave all that was required of him, and he gave **all** of it, willingly, and with complete faith, that God would favor him, as well.

Abel’s “good will” offering will **always** be remembered, as Hebrews 11:4, Matthew 23:35, and Luke 11:51, **attest**. Will the “good will,” “favor,” and “respect,” that **we have** offered, or will, offer, to God, be remembered, beyond our lives, much less, during, our lives? Can we say that we have, **thus far**, offered anything to God? Have we made **any sacrifice** to God, **whatsoever**? If not, we cannot say, that “a more excellent sacrifice,” **has** been offered, by us, to **God**. But, praise God, we **remain** alive. We have the remainder of our lives, to **show** Him “respect,” as well as, to **give** Him, “respect.”

When Christians “sacrifice” according to the **Will of God**, they, perhaps, paradoxically, **gain**, much more than **what** they “sacrifice.” Truth be told, Christians **never sacrifice** very much, at **all**, even, when they are “giving” their **all**. **Everything belongs** to the LORD. When we **do** “sacrifice” to the LORD, we **are** letting Him **know** the “respect,” we have for Him. When we do **not** “sacrifice” to the LORD, we are disrespecting Him. Does anyone, **really**, want to do that, to Almighty God? Are **we**, to be, **Abel’s**, or are we, to be, **Cain’s**? To be..... **Abel**..... or..... **not** to be..... **Abel**..... **that**..... is the question!

Favor God, and He will definitely, “**favor**” **you**. **Perform** that which is good in His eyes, and there will be **no** end to His blessings for you. 1 Timothy 1:17 says “*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.*”