



## Double Portion:

## Title:

### SCRIPTURES

- (1<sup>st</sup>) Exodus 35:1-38:20
- (2<sup>nd</sup>) Exodus 38:21-40:38
- Genesis 1:3-31
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

### ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY

- Commands for the Believer
- What God has Ordained
- Willing Participants
- The Work of the Kingdom

*Brennan Manning, a Franciscan Priest and author of the Ragamuffin Gospel wrote—“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”*

*I’ve lived as a Christian for the last 18 years, and I too can echo those words. We can agree, from the average believer sadly living their lives as described by Manning, to all the recognizable faces of those once held in esteem for their achievements in the faith, now disgraced in infamy, it is an utter atrocity. The reputation of Christianity has become poisoned!*

*Of course, everyone is responsible for their own sin. But, as a whole, why has modern Christianity not been able to push against*

*the tirade of temptation it faces from societal pressures? Could it be that Christendom, as a body, has forgotten its ethical foundations?*

*Consider what God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet (v. 17:9); "The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?" It should be evident that separating from the lifestyle moorings, which God provided in the Scriptures, will always yield the same outcome, the spectating world pointing fingers at all those who crash and burn, and in the end indicting Christianity for the hypocrisy they witness. All this would be avoided if we returned to "Ethical Christianity."*

#### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "**These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath** of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. Exodus 35:1-2 ESV

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "**This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution...** Exodus 35:4-5a ESV

And they came, **everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution** to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart... Exodus 35:21-22a ESV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is **walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us**. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat**. For we hear that some among you **walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him,**

***that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.*** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 ESV

***“...and one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*** 2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

The Torah is divided into 54 weekly readings meant to be explored throughout each biblical calendar year called the annual Torah cycle. Yet, the normal length of biblical year is counted by lunar (moon) cycles, not a solar (sun) cycle, and has only as 354 days, which yields only 50 or 51 sabbaths on which to do those readings. The biblical “leap year” adds an extra month every 3 years which then adds 4 sabbaths for reading. In addition, a few of the readings each year are meant to be read on biblical feast days and not on the weekly sabbath. So to insure that each year all of the portions are read, some weeks have double portion readings. This can happen up to 7 times in any Biblical calendar year, differing dependent on when the feasts days fall and if we are in a leap year. This week calls for one of those double portion readings.

1. The first portion in Exodus 35:1-38:20 describes how the assembly of Israel worked together to build the Tabernacle.

2. The second portion in Exodus 38:21-40:38 and the final reading from the book Exodus begins with an audit of how the contributions for the Tabernacle were used. The portion goes on to describe the completion of the Tabernacle and its assembly and concludes by depicting the glory of Yahweh entering it.

### **THE FIRST PORTION**

3. **Sabbath Regulations:** Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day, a Sabbath of rest **to the Lord**. Kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.
4. Offerings for the Tabernacle: metals, garments, skins, oils, spices, precious stones.
5. Articles of the Tabernacle: made by gifted artisans.
6. The Tabernacle Offerings Presented: everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, *and* they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle.
7. The Artisans Called by God: (35:30) Yahweh has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship and the ability to teach.
8. **The People Give More than Enough:** The people brought **much more** than enough for the service of the work which the Lord

commanded *us* to do to the point that Moses has to retrain them from bringing more.

9. **Building the Tabernacle:** Every detail is described. Notice how many times it instructs that they do everything precisely how Yahweh commanded Moses to do it.
10. **Making the Ark of the Testimony:** Every detail described.
11. **Making the Gold Lampstand:** Every detail described.
12. **Making the Altar of Incense:** Every detail described.
13. **Making the Altar of Burnt Offering:** Every detail described.
14. **Making the Bronze Laver:** Every detail described.
15. **Making the Court of the Tabernacle:** Every detail described.

## **THE SECOND PORTION**

16. **Materials of the Tabernacle:** A complete inventory in detail of all the gold, silver, and bronze it took to build the tabernacle is recounted.
17. **Making the Garments of the Priesthood:** all the different aspects are described.
18. **Making the Ephod:** described in detail with the stones named for the son of Israel.
19. **Making the Breastplate:** described in details with the four rows of stones, three stones in each row—twelve stones according to the names of the sons of Israel.

20. **Making the Other Priestly Garments:** described in detail.
21. They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription *like* the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD.
22. **The Work Completed:** Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses.
23. Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.
24. **The Tabernacle Erected and Arranged:** On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.
- Put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.
  - Bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it;
  - Bring in the lampstand and light its lamps.
  - Set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony
  - Put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.
  - Set the altar of the burnt offering

- Set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.
- Set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.
- Take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that *is* in it.
- Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water.
- Put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.
- Bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.
- Anoint them that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall **surely be an everlasting priesthood** throughout their generations.

25. And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the tabernacle was raised up. And Moses took the Testimony and put *it* into the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the Testimony, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

26. Moses put everything else in place and finished the work.

27. **The Cloud and the Glory:** Yahweh's glory filled the tabernacle.



Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. As long as the cloud remained they did not journey for the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. The End of Exodus

#### A. Ethical Foundations

- (1) Just as in Exodus 25-27, this section of Scripture begins with Moses telling the people of Israel what God has commanded them to do.
- (2) We are NOT going to look at the Scriptures today at their surface, face value.
- (3) We will look at today's Scriptures, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, from the underlying ethical foundational value they bring to the overall makeup of the Church today. Hence the title for today's study, *Ethical Christianity!*

## ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY HAS AT ITS ROOTS IN...COMMANDS

### 2. Commands for a believer to be a productive member of society

#### A. And God said...

(1) Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "***These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. Six days work shall be done.***

(a) This command was more directly spoken about the work the people of Israel were to perform as it related to the building of the Tabernacle.

(b) However, Right from the very beginning of time and creation in Genesis 1, God prescribed mankind, by example, what would be His prescribed pattern for work.

1. ***And God said***, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, ***the first day. And God said***, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse

from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, **the second day. And God said**, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, **the third day. And God said**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the

lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, ***the fourth day. And God said,*** "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, ***the fifth day. And God said,*** "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw

that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, ***the sixth day***. Genesis 1:3-31 ESV

(2) Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is **walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.** 2 Thessalonians 3:6

(a) Do you have an idea to what tradition the Apostle Paul is referring?

(b) May I suggest he is referring to the tradition of working six day per week and resting on Sabbath?

(c) Also, it is rather evident that the Apostle Paul also makes mention of idleness, “keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness” because this type of behavior spreads like wildfire.

(3) Idleness and laziness are easy to fall into, especially when looking at others getting by while doing nothing.

(a) As a door turns on its hinges, **so does a sluggard on his bed.** Proverbs 26:14 ESV

1. King Solomon likens the sluggard to a door turning on its hinges while in bed! Outside of a health diagnosis that prohibits the believer from being involved in productive work. Can you relate? My prayer would be that your answer is a resounding NO!

- (b) The *sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back* to his mouth. Proverbs 26:15 ESV
1. Are you guilty of looking at those with whom you work in order to regulate the amount of work you do according, by comparing to theirs?
  2. Are you guilty of saying—“*Well, if he/she can get away with that I’m not doing it either!*”
- (4) Just as a reminder, if the person whom you are referring to is a Christian. Shame on them! However, more importantly, shame on you for looking at someone else as the standard for your performance!
1. ***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*** Colossians 3:23-24 ESV
    - a) Can you recognize who it is you work for? Here is a clue, it is not man!
    - b) Your reward for carrying out your daily work duties is properly representing that which we claim to believe. This is a small price to pay in life in exchange for what Christ has done!

ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY HAS AT ITS ROOTS IN...WHAT GOD HAS ORDAINED

**3. In not changing what God has ordained!**

**A. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever**

- (1) *but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath* of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.
  - (a) The majority of believers in an average congregation do not hold to observing a day of rest, and never mind observing THE day of rest, that day being the Sabbath.
  - (b) How did we get here?
- (2) Did God prescribe somewhere in Scripture that Sabbath be overlooked or changed to any other day besides the seventh day?
  - (a) ***And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*** Genesis 2:2-3 ESV
- (3) Are we dealing with a schizophrenic God? One who says one thing in one section of Scripture, and then changes His mind in another?



- (a) I will not break My covenant, ***nor change the thing that has gone out of My lips.*** Psalm 80:34 MKJV
- (4) Is it then safe to say that God did not change the observance of Sabbath?
- (a) Who changed it then? Who is responsible for the centuries that have passed, during which believers have been kept away from enjoying a “solemn rest” with their Creator?
- (b) Roman Emperor Constantine on March 7th, 321 A.D. passed a national Sunday law: “Let all judges and townspeople and occupations of all trades **rest on the venerable day of the Sun.**”
- (c) “Of course these two old quotations are exactly correct. **The Catholic Church designated Sunday as the day for worship and gets full credit-or blame-for the change**” This Rock, The Magazine of Catholics Apologetics and Evangelization, pg. 8, June 1997
- (d) “Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever made, happened in the first century: **The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. “The Day of The Lord” was chosen, not from any directions noted in Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power.**”

- (5) While this is not a study regarding the observance of Sabbath. It is important to point out the changes that have been made to the written word of God, as a means to demonstrate why an unethical Christianity is more prevalent than an ethical one.
- (a) It is not because of its unwillingness to observe it, but because of allowance for the Scriptures to be maneuvered in ways that contradict what God has commanded.
- (b) To this end, everyone can live out the scriptures as they see fit, instead of what God expects from His disciples.

## ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY HAS AT ITS ROOTS IN...WILLING PARTICIPATION

### 4. Willingly material participants through transparent leadership

#### A. Whoever has a generous heart

- (1) Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, ***"This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution..."*** Exodus 35:5
- (2) God desires that His people ***willingly*** participate in Kingdom's business.

- (a) Yahweh has no intentions to force anyone to contribute financially to the work that has been, and will be, done here on Earth.
- (b) “...and one must give ***as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***” 2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV
1. The Apostle Paul in the New Testament resonates this very fact and specifies that the person’s giving ***must not be based on compulsion.*** That is to say, not coerced by anything or anyone besides his/her decision to do so, based on the ***prompting of the Spirit of God.***
  2. It is no secret that here, on this side of eternity, nothing is accomplished without having the financial capacity to make those acquisitions.
- (3) At the same time, those who speak on His behalf, ***must be transparent with what the contributions will be used for.*** In doing so, each and every financial participant will have a sense of their involvement and what Glory that participation will bring Yahweh.
- (a) Here is the prooftext— And they came, ***everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution*** to be ***used***

***for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments.*** So they came, both men and

women. All who were of a willing heart... Exodus 35:21

- (b) Yahweh, through Moses' verbal capabilities, moved the people of Israel to be ***willing participants*** in the project of assembling the Tabernacle.
- (c) It has been estimated that the collection of all the elements spoken of in this section of Scripture used for this project would have an equivalent value of \$10 million, in today's economy.
- (4) Misappropriation of funds in the Ministry today is one the biggest reasons for the flock of God to head for the exits.
  - (a) Everyone, to one degree or another, has personally witnessed or heard of unbelievable circumstances taking place in which people in leadership positions in the Ministry have pilfered the funds of that Ministry.
- (5) What is the end result of materially transparent leadership plus the willing hearts of God's children?
  - (a) An overabundance of contribution—..."The people bring ***much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded*** us to do." So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "***Let no man or woman do anything more for the***

*contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.* Exodus 36:5-7  
ESV

- (b) When the people of God sense in their spirit that He is behind their leadership, they will gladly participate materially for the work of the Kingdom!

ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY HAS AT ITS ROOTS IN...THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM

## 5. Spirit filled disciples carry out the work of the Kingdom

### A. Filled with...

- (1) *....and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,* Exodus 35:31
- (2) *....He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done* by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer. Exodus 35:35
- (3) Each and everyone, who calls themselves a son/daughter of God, undoubtedly has a God-given gifting of some sort, usable for the work of God.

(a) The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 writes—“For ***just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable” 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

- (4) First and foremost to keep in mind is the fact that Yahweh is the one who is doing the work in and through the Disciple.
- (a) It is through the ***empowering of the Spirit*** that the believer will have the desire to participate.
  - (b) Given that premise, each one of us has a capacity and a specific task to be carried out!
  - (c) Just as the human body needs all of its body parts to function optimally, ***so does the body of Christ.***
  - (d) What part are you? Have you considered what role you play in Yahweh's Kingdom building plan?
  - (e) Have you had an experience in which you knew without a shadow of doubt that Yahweh used the gifting He placed inside of you for His Kingdom economy?
  - (f) Too often we, as believers, will place our gift on the shelf to become an adorning artifact. Or even worse yet, as a trophy to admire and gloat about to others with zero impact because it is not being utilized.
    - 1. Would you be receptive and obedient to God if He were to call you to a specific task?
    - 2. Would you take immediate action knowing He is the one who called you or hesitate by saying, "let me pray about that."?

## CLOSING

### 6. ETHICAL CHRISTIANITY HAS AT ITS ROOTS IN...

#### A. No Excuses

- (1) We are all aware of what is going on around us surrounding the subject of a flawed Church.
  - (a) Let's not kid ourselves by pointing fingers at the unbelieving world when they have nothing to shoot at
  - (b) Their world is filled with selfish behaviors.
  - (c) It is a "me and mine" world where everything goes.
  - (d) The desires and deeds of the flesh dictate the actions of the day.
- (2) What's our excuse? We have none!
  - (a) We have all that we need in our hands by the way of Scriptural foundation, a born again spirit empowered by the Spirit of God, with clear cut directives, which are to guide us through this temptation-riddled world we navigate on a daily basis.
  - (b) We have fellowship with one another, which should itself be a source and a way to build strength in our spiritual capabilities.
  - (c) We certainly cannot overlook the fact that we have the power of prayer, coupled with the fact that the veil was torn and that we have access to the Throne Room of



God where we can walk in boldly, in order to receive both His Mercy and His Grace.

- (3) At the end of the day, the title of today's study "Ethical Christianity" should be an oxymoron along the lines of "Church discipline".
  - (a) The word "Christian" all by itself should already imply the word "ethical".
  - (b) Unfortunately that is not the norm, and seemingly it is slowly becoming less and less evident.
  - (c) This will certainly continue to give room for the enemy to keep sticking his foot in the door of doubt, giving the onlooking world as a reason to not believe.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. It is clear that the Scriptures teach that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath:**

- A. Why is the predominant teaching in the church today different than what the Scriptures teach about the Sabbath?
- B. Discuss the various common teachings and why you think they are correct or incorrect?
- C. Who takes credit for "changing the Sabbath?"

**2. The Sabbath certainly gives us a day to rest, but what are the other six days meant for?**

- A. What does the Bible teach about idleness and being a sluggard?
- B. How are we, as believers, supposed to work?

**3. The work of the Kingdom requires resources:**

- A. God asked Moses to take a contribution from the people to collect all the resources needed to build everything to do with the Tabernacle: How did the people respond?
- B. How does this relate to what Paul teaches the Church regarding willing participation in giving?
- C. What does it mean to have a generous heart?

**4. Is your gift and calling from God on a shelf, like a trophy, or are you using it?**

- A. Would you be receptive and obedient to God if He were to call you to a specific task?
- B. Would you take immediate action knowing He is the one who called you or hesitate by saying, "let me pray about that."?

**5. There is no doubt we live in a self-indulgent "me and mine" culture:**

- A. What is motivating and dictating your actions: things of the flesh or things of the Spirit? Explain!

- B. If you are not living the way you should, what excuses are you making?
- C. What can you do to change right now?