

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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A Plumb Line

by John Isaac Edwards

The word of the Lord mentions a plumb line. Amos recorded, “Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:7-8). A plumb line may be used when erecting a wall to make sure it is straight. Let’s set the divine plumb line in our midst and see if we are in line with God’s standard.

1) **Our Attendance.** The plumb line says: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God...” (Mt. 6:33). The example of first-century Christians finds them “... continuing daily with one accord in the temple...” (Acts 2:46) and “...assembled together...” (Acts 4:31). Hebrews 10:25 states, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” When the plumb line is set next to this area of my life, am I plumb?

2) **Our Attitudes.** Attitude, good or bad, is ever showing. The Bible says, “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). Let’s read the spiritual

plumb line. Attitudes that promote unity and growth in the local church include lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance and love (Eph. 4:2). Are my attitudes in line, or do I need an attitude adjustment?

3) **Our Treatment Of Others.** A look at the plumb line reveals how we are to treat others. I am to treat others how I want to be treated (Mt. 7:12). We are to love others as self (Mt. 22:39). Paul penned, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Phil. 2:4). We have been taught to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). When it comes to the way we are treating others, are we upright?

4) **Our Giving.** Did you know that it is possible to rob God? God’s Old Testament people were guilty of robbing Him! “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings” (Mal. 3:8). Wonder how many today rob God by not giving Him what is His? The plumb line will help keep us from being among the Lord’s robbers. It says to give weekly as prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2), to give sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:3), and to give bountifully,

purposefully and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Is my giving in line with what the Bible teaches?

5) **Our Purity.** Looking at the plumb line: “Blessed are the pure in heart” (Mt. 5:8). “Keep thyself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22). “Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22). Think on pure things (Phil. 4:8). When the plumb line is set next to us, how pure are we?

6) **Use Of The Tongue.** The tongue has great power. Solomon said, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (Prov. 18:21). James taught on this as well (Jas. 3:3-6). The plumb line sets forth misuse of the tongue: gossip and talebearing (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 26:20-22), lying (Eph. 4:25), corrupt communication (Eph. 4:29), and the list goes on. It also shows the proper use of the tongue: confessing faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), edifying (Eph. 4:29), preaching the word (Acts 8:4), and on it goes. The tongue must be kept with a bridle to be kept plumb (Jas. 1:26). Is your tongue plumb?

7) **The Family Relationship.** Let’s stretch out the plumb line in several areas of the family. First, our marriage. Is it plumb?

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4). What about me as a husband and you as a wife? How do we measure up with Ephesians 5:24-33 and 1 Peter 3:1-7? How are we doing on the job as parents? The plumb line says, “Train up a child in the way he should go...” (Prov. 22:6). “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). As a child in the family, read Ephesians 6:1-3 and 1

Timothy 5:4 to see if you are plumb. Are we plumb or are there some changes that need to be made to bring us in line with God’s rule?

8) **The Church.** Stretching out the divine plumb line shows a lot of churches are out of plumb. Here are some things to check: The origin (Eph. 3:10-11; Is. 2:2-3; Acts 2), name (Rom. 16:16; Acts 11:26), work (Eph. 4:12), worship (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19; organization (Eph. 1:21-23; Phil. 1:1), doctrine (2 Jn. 9). Any church that did not originate at the right time (the

last days), with the right people (all nations) and at the right place (Jerusalem), that does not wear the right name, do the right work the right way, worship right, does not respect the right organizational arrangement, or teach the right doctrine is not plumb!

The Psalmist stated, “For the word of the Lord is right...” (Ps. 33:4). May we be in proper alignment with the Lord’s word, the divine plumb line! If we find ourselves out of plumb, let’s make the changes that need to be made!

Did You Know You Came From Fat?

At Israel’s Weizmann Institute, Doron Lancet thinks he has the answer to how life began. “Deep in my heart, I feel like we’ve discovered how life began,” says Lancet, the lead proponent of a new theory of life’s origins, described in a recent issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The secret of life’s debut, he says, was fat. “In supercomputer simulations,

Lancet found that left to their own devices in an inanimate world, fat molecules could manifest life’s essential properties — self-replication and information storage. Also known as lipids, fats form assemblies and grow until they split. The self-copying droplets hold information not by lining up in sequence as DNA does but by arranging themselves in unique spherical assortments. Such gatherings presumably gave rise to full-blown cells, though it’s still unclear how.” Did you notice the words

“could”, “presumably”, and “unclear”?

The Bible affirms, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). “God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7).

2017 Gospel Meetings:

April 16-21 (Connie W. Adams)

September 10-15 (Various Preachers)

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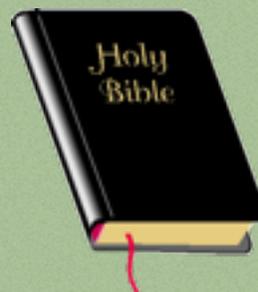
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