

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church**  
**We're glad you're here!**



# O Worship the King

## Hymn 336



# Revive Us Again

## Hymn 574



**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church**  
**We're glad you're here!**



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

**Call to Worship**  
**Psalm 2:7-12**

**Psalm 2:7-12** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." **Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

# Have Thine Own Way Lord

## Hymn 400



# Trust and Obey

## Hymn 454





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Corinthians 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“Given the large portion of the New Testament written by him, it’s extremely significant that Luke has been established to be a scrupulously accurate historian, even in the smallest details. One prominent archaeologist carefully examined Luke’s references to thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine islands, finding not a single mistake.”*

**JOHN McRAY**

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

**Today's Message**  
**“Hold Fast to Jesus,  
Part 2”**

**Scripture text: Colossians 2:16-23**

# **Hold Fast to Jesus... for the Deception is thick!**

**The remedy ... Act 17:10-12** The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.** Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,** for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**The blessing of grace (v. 17).**

**The Law is but a shadow; but in Christ we have the reality, the substance.**

**Hebrews 10:1** For since **the law has but a shadow of the good things to come** instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Why go back into shadows **when we have the reality in Jesus Christ?** This is like trying to hug a shadow when the reality is at hand!

People who religiously observe diets and days give an outward semblance of spirituality, **but these practices cannot change their hearts.**

Legalism is a popular thing because you can **“measure”** your spiritual life—and **even brag about it!** But this is a far cry from measuring up to Christ!

**Ephesians 4:13** until **we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**

**Ephesians 4:11-14** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood,** to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

# **“Let No Man Beguile You of Your Reward” (Col. 2:18–19)**

The word translated beguile in the King James Version means “to declare unworthy of a prize.” It is an athletic term: the umpire disqualifies the contestant because he has not obeyed the rules. The contestant does not cease to be a citizen of the land, but he forfeits the honor of winning a prize. A Christian who fails to obey God’s directions does not lose his salvation. But he does lose the approval of the Lord and the rewards He has promised to those who are faithful (1 Cor. 3:8).

**1 Corinthians 3:5-11** What then is Apollos? What is Paul? **Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.** I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the growth.** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God who gives the growth.** He who plants and he who waters are one, and **each will receive his wages according to his labor.** For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. **Let each one take care how he builds upon it.** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**

There is, then, the danger that our lives today will rob us of reward and glory tomorrow. The peril Paul had in mind here was Oriental mysticism, **the belief that a person can have an immediate experience with the spiritual world, completely apart from the Word of God or the Holy Spirit.**

The false teachers in Colossae had visions and made contact with angels. **In bypassing the Word of God and the Spirit of God, they were opening themselves to all kinds of demonic activity**—because Satan knows how to give counterfeit experiences to people (2 Cor. 11:13–15).

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, **deceitful workmen**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So **it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.**

Remember 1 Samuel 28? Do not use a medium or a witch, to talk with god, you will be deceived

The word translated “intruding” was a technical term used by the mystical religions of that day. It meant “to set foot in the inner shrine, to be fully initiated into the mysteries of the religion.”

**No Christian has to go through any initiation ceremony to get into the presence of God.** We may have “boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Heb. 10:19). We may “come boldly unto the throne of grace” (Heb. 4:16). And as for worshiping angels, **they are our servants!** The angels are “all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation” (Heb. 1:14).

Of course, all of this mystical ceremony was wrapped up in a false humility **that was actually an expression of pride.** “I am not good enough to come directly to God,” the gnostic would say, “so I will start with one of the angels.”

**Trying to reach God the Father through anyone or anything other than His Son, Jesus Christ, is idolatry.**  
***Jesus Christ is the one and only Mediator***  
between God and man (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5). The person who worships through angels or saints now in heaven does not prove his humility, for **he is not submitting to the authority of God’s Word.**

Actually, he reveals a subtle kind of pride that substitutes man-made traditions for the Word of God. “His unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions” (Col. 2:18, niv).

**Colossians 2:18** Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

**True worship always humbles a person. The mind is awed by the greatness of God; the heart is filled with love for God; and the will is submitted to the purpose God has for the life.**

The gnostics, however, were interested primarily in “deeper spiritual knowledge,” and **they ignored God’s truth.** Their “inner secrets” **gave them big heads, but not burning hearts or submissive wills.**

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." **This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.**

**It is worth noting that a true spiritual experience with God leads to submission and service.** When Job met the Lord he said, **Job 42:5-6** I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore **I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."**

Peter fell down before his Lord and said, **Luke 5:8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "**Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**"

Isaiah saw the Lord and confessed how sinful he was (**Isaiah 6:5** And I said: "**Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!**" );

and when John saw the risen Christ, he fell at His feet like a dead man (Rev. 1:17).

The cheap familiarity with which some people approach God in prayer, or talk about Him in testimony or conversation sometimes borders on blasphemy.

The saintly Bishop Westcott of Great Britain, author of many scholarly commentaries on various books of the Bible, once wrote: **“Every year makes me tremble at the daring with which people speak of spiritual things.”**

Tragically, this “vain religion of the puffed-up fleshly mind” is but a **mere substitute for true spiritual nourishment from Jesus Christ**, the Head of the body, His church.

This is one of several passages in the New Testament that pictures the church as the body of Christ (see Rom. 12:4ff; 1 Cor. 12–14; Eph. 4:4–16; Col. 1:18, 24). All of us, as believers, are members of the spiritual body, **the church**, because of the work of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:12–13). As Christians, we minister to one another in the body just as the various parts of the human body minister to each other (1 Cor. 12:14ff).

**But if a believer does not draw on the spiritual nourishment that comes from Christ and other Christians, he becomes weak. The false teachers were not holding to the Head, and therefore they were spiritually undernourished; but *they thought they were spiritual experts. Imagine thinking yourself a giant when in reality you are a pygmy!***

**The false teachers were anxious to win converts to their cause; but the spiritual body grows by nutrition, not by addition.** Every member of Christ's body, including the "ligaments and sinews" (joints and bands), is important to the health and growth of the body. **No matter what your spiritual gift may be, you are important to the church.** In fact, some people who may not have spectacular public ministries are probably **just as important behind the scenes as those out in public.**

It is through worship, prayer, and the Word that we draw on the spiritual resources of Christ.

**All of us must be part of a local church where we can exercise our own spiritual gifts (See Eph. 4:11–17).**

**1 Corinthians 12:7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**The New Testament says nothing of “isolated saints” outside of the local church.**

But it is possible to be in a local church **and not draw on the Head and the nourishment of the spiritual body.** The false teachers in Colossae sought to introduce their teachings into the local assembly; and if they succeeded, they would have caused the spiritual nourishment to decrease instead of increase.

**Unless the members of the local assembly abide in Christ, yield to the Spirit, and obey the Word, they cannot experience the life of the Head, Jesus Christ.**

There is a fascination with “religious mysticism” that attracts people. Learning mysteries, being initiated into the inner secrets, and having contact with the spirit world all seem exciting.

**But these practices are soundly condemned by God. The true Christian glories in Christ, not in his own experience. He follows the Word, led by the Holy Spirit; and as he abides in Christ, he experiences blessing and fruitfulness. He seeks no other experience than that which relates him to the Head, Jesus Christ.**

# I Surrender All

## Hymn 408

