

The Established Standard

August 13, 2024

Let's begin in the book of Numbers 23. The English word, "standard" is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as, "Something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, quality, distance, weight, extent, or value." In other words, it is the basis upon which everything else must be measured.

For instance, the measurement of 1 foot is established as a distance of 12 inches. How? A Ruler issued by the United States National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, Colorado is the standard upon which all other inches and feet are measured. The ruler includes measurements in centimeters and inches. If anyone is going to mass produce 1 foot rulers, it must be according to this standard at the Bureau of Standards.

As for the measurement of time, there is an atomic clock at this same location in Boulder, now called "National Institute of Standards and Technology", that measures time. This atomic clock is called "F2", and ticks with an accuracy of 1 millionth of a second (*barely measurable*) in 300 million years. This is the "official" clock upon which all other clocks in the U.S. are measured. And for the world for that matter. From these two aspects of measurement (time and space), mankind has built nations from them. Yet, it doesn't compare to most accurate of time and space... God's Word.

Genesis 1:14: And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

This is an example of God establishing order in the universe for mankind. In order for anyone to be accurate with the greatness of God's Word, it has to be according to an established standard. Except in this case, it is the standard of the Word of God itself.

Numbers 23:19 God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should change his mind.: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

The reason why most people do not trust God is because they do not trust other people. That's understandable because people are not perfect, they make mistakes, they lie. God distinguishes Himself from people. "God is not a man that He should lie..." This verse in Numbers sets the standard upon which all of mankind should rely. God tells the truth... always!

Ephesians 4:14: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine [deceptive teaching], by the sleight [craftiness] of men, *and* cunning craftiness [strategies of delusion], whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

This was the very first verse I memorized after being introduced to the accuracy of God's Word. It really made me consider. I certainly had been tossed "to and fro" mentally and spiritually. I knew I needed answers, and like a balloon that was ready to pop, my hunger was overwhelming! Once I was introduced to the accuracy of God's Word, I had an insatiable desire to have as much Bible as I could digest. Like many others had done, my appetite for truth and the yearning for God's steadfast answers.

I knew that I had been taught certain things about God, Jesus Christ and the Bible, but it all seemed like a hodge-podge of information that didn't really help me. Some things that I had learned about God, Jesus Christ and His Word were true, other things were not true. I needed answers, real answers! Like

many others, I discovered that God is faithful to His Word, and what He has promised, He will do it. He brings us to the people that will teach us His Word accurately.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

The word for “filled” in this verse means, “filled according to appetite.” God will make sure that you get what you want and need, even if it doesn’t seem that it is possible to attain at first. This verse blessed me so much because I saw that God was now giving me what I had always longed for. With my intense appetite, I could now be satisfied with each new “meal,” or teaching. To this day, every time I go to the Word of God, He fills me according to my appetite, as I am sure He does the same for you. He will do the same for everyone. God will fill you, just like He fills you right now as we sit through this teaching about His Word.

2 Peter 1:3 According [the established standard] as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

God states here that He has given unto us, all things that pertain to life and godliness. “Life” is the Greek word “*zōē*” which means “life in all of its manifestations.” Thayer’s Bible Dictionary defines this further as, “the absolute fulness of life, both essential and ethical.”

Next is the word, “godliness,” which means, “a true, vital, spiritual relationship with God.” This is what our God has done for us. He has given us all things that pertain to the absolute fullness of life that are essential and ethical. And He has given us all things that pertain to having a true, vital relationship with Him. What a wonderful thing! And...we keep reading... “through the knowledge of Him...” and the knowledge of God is found in His Word. This is where we find these wonderful things! We have them! They are ours! God established these things as the standard for our lives. Next verse...

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers [share fully] of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The **Working Translation** of this same verse 4: “**By these *things*, the precious and greatest things promised have been given to us, so that through these *things* you became partakers of the divine nature and have escaped from the corruption that is in the world with *its* craving.**”

The standard that God has established is based on His “...great and precious promises.” God’s great and precious promises allow us to know about God and His nature, and His nature is now our nature by way of the new birth. The word for “nature” means: “characteristics.” What is the nature of God? To start with, let’s look at:

John 4:24: God *is* Spirit... God is spirit. This is God’s nature. A spirit does not have human characteristics like a nose, mouth, ears, skin etc. The reality is that you cannot register spirit by our five senses. In order to see, hear spirit etc., we must also have spirit, and by this new spirit nature that we have within us, we can hear from God, we can see things that God may show us and so on. We now have the spirit of Christ in us which gives us power and ability to do the things promised in God’s Word.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

This is our new life. This is what separates us from the things of the world. Furthermore, there are characteristics of God that are all part of our new, divine nature. We cannot see spirit, but we can see the affects of this new nature.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The Greek word for “fruit” means “product of the work wrought.” Fruit is the product of what has been planted. This is similar to the fruit of a tree. It takes time for a planted seed to produce fruit. God has planted His incorruptible seed within us at the time we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

God has placed His incorruptible seed within each and every believer. That is the new nature that we read about earlier. We have taken on the nature of our heavenly Father. And just as we have the nature of our earthly father within us when we are born, we now have the nature of our heavenly Father when we are born again. It cannot be changed or removed. It is all in all, top to bottom, inside and out. The incorruptible seed of our Father is permanently there and there is nothing that we or anyone else can do to change or remove that. It is the nature of God Almighty!

Ephesians 5:1: Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

In order for us to be followers of God we must take action in our mind. We choose the walk in love as dear children. God does not force us or overtake our free will. We must do it. And as we do this, the “sweet smelling nature” of Christ is evident to others. They see the love, the kindness, that gentleness of God in our lives. All because we chose to walk according to God’s established standard. Not according to what the world thinks is the established standard, but according to God’s established standard... which is in His Word.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4 According [the established standard] as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

This is what God has established in our lives now. He blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. Why did He do this for us? Verse 4 states the reason: “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

This sort of love that God has for us is almost unfathomable, but it’s there nonetheless. As we decide to walk in love as Christ loved us, we manifest that nature of God, and the fruit of the spirit that God placed within us. The spirit is there, but in order to manifest the fruit of the spirit, we must decide to put these things on in our hearts and minds.

John 15:4 Abide in me [Jesus Christ], and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

To bring forth the fruit requires abiding in the Word of God, abiding in Christ. If a branch of a tree gets cut off, that branch can no longer produce fruit. This is the way that God has established our lives now that we are His children. The established standard is incorruptible seed, the very nature of God. The divine nature. As we abide, we produce fruit.

Luke 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

The heart refers to the seat of your personal life, not the organ that pumps blood. The heart is the part of the mind that believing emanates from. When we first came to Christ, we were taught what we needed to do to continue to walk in Christ, and that being: to read what the Bible taught us about obedience, about love, about goodness, about kindness, about joy etc. This was, and is our moment of putting on the Word in our minds. And the more we put on the Word, the more we begin to believe what the Word says. Believing comes from the heart.

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* 2 And be not conformed [*fashioned*] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To renew that mind takes effort, it takes commitment, it takes putting on the Word in our minds. As we do so, we may prove that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect [chosen] of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing [Upholding] one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel [complaint] against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye.*

We do not have to guess at what God's Will is any more. God has spelled out the established standard for our lives in His Word, for the Word of God is the will of God. If anyone wants to know what God's will is, they must go God's Word. It's not what your best friend may think or say. It's not what your husband or wife may say, or what your grandma would say. No, none of those. But what does God's Word say! This is the established standard for our lives.