

# Virtues, as found in II Peter 1

U	E	C	N	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	Q
S	H	G	G	O	Y	Z	A	E	P	K	E
S	V	I	L	F	W	T	A	A	B	C	D
E	E	Q	N	A	B	U	H	Z	N	C	S
N	G	R	U	I	D	U	M	E	Z	B	S
I	D	U	P	T	O	G	I	C	O	G	E
L	E	D	F	H	K	T	Q	L	J	R	N
D	N	W	A	V	A	T	R	S	N	T	D
O	Q	P	A	P	X	V	X	H	O	X	N
G	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	X	U	Y	I
Z	R	P	E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K
W	E	K	L	C	C	O	B	S	X	U	F

Words to Find:  
 charity  
 faith  
 godliness  
 kindness  
 knowledge  
 patience  
 temperance

## Won by His Wife's Faith

C. H. Spurgeon

I have read the story of a man who was converted to God by seeing the conduct of his wife in an hour of trouble. They had a lovely child, their only offspring. The father's heart doted on it perpetually, and the mother's soul was knit up in the heart of the little one. The child lay sick upon its bed, and the parents watched it night and day. At last it died.

The father had no God. He tore out his hair. He rolled upon the floor in misery; wallowed upon the earth; cursed his being,

and defied God.


There sat his wife, as fond of the child as any could be; and though tears would come, she gently said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

"What!" he said, "You love that child! I thought that when that child died it would break your heart. Here I am, a strong man; I am going mad. Here are you, and yet you are strong and bold. Tell me what it is that possesses you?"

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## We're Not Perfect; Just Forgiven

Bill Brinkworth

"And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse him."  
 Mark 3:2



Here in Mark 3:2, the Son of God came down to man, and healed many that were sick and possessed. Instead of lining the streets and having a ticker-tape parade to show their gratitude, they watched Him carefully to see if they could find Jesus doing something wrong. The crowd that usually was looking for Him to fail was composed of "religious" folks.

Today is no different. If it happened to the Son of God, then Christians can certainly expect similar treatment today. When someone hears we are a Christian, they carefully observe our lives. If they find us doing something wrong, in their eyes,

they gleefully point and sneer, "Some Christian he is," or "Hypocrite!"

Well, they can look all they want, and if they look long enough and carefully enough, they will find us doing something wrong. We still have the same flesh we were born with that will still sin, if we let it. A Christian certainly is not perfect, just forgiven.

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## Many Will Always Find Fault

Bill Brinkworth

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." Matthew 11:18-19

You surely have heard the saying, "You can't please all the people all the time". It certainly

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## We're Not Perfect ...

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We surely are not perfect and will make mistakes; nevertheless, we should try our best to always be a good example of Christian behavior. There will always be some that are watching how we go through hard times; how we react when others do us wrong; what we do when we are tempted, and how we live. It is interesting how the observers may have no interest or experience in living for the Lord themselves, but they somehow think they know how we should live.

We have a tremendous weight on our shoulders. The scorners and scoffers should be reading their Bible and examining their own lives in comparison to what God requires of us all, but they are not. They scrutinize our testimonies for the Saviour instead.

Quite often they look for us to fail so that they can write off any conviction they may have for their ungodly lifestyle, or for even their attempting to obey Scripture. When they think we have failed, they feel justified for living the way they do. However, they are usually not aware of the biblical principle, *"So then every one of us shall give ac-*

*count of himself to God."* Romans 14:12. (Also: Matthew 12:36). Everyone will ultimately give an account of himself. No one's shortcomings can ever be a valid excuse for another's wrongdoing.

Not only can our life-style not be an excuse for someone not to live a godly life, but rather it should be an example of how to live a godly life. The world is confused and distraught. They often see that their ways do not work. They are looking for a way to live a better life. Are you being the example they would want to follow to have a closer relationship with God and to have that better life?

## Many Will Always ...

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is true, especially in the realm of living for the Lord.

John the Baptist experienced much criticism. Jesus noted of the prophet that there was none greater than John was (Mat. 11:11); yet this godly man was accused of being demon possessed (Mat. 11:18). Jesus, the sinless Son of God, was also accused of being gluttonous and a drunkard (Mat. 11:19) among other criticisms.

If these great spiritual giants were wrongly accused and spoken badly of by some, we Christians should not be surprised when things are twisted around, and we are spoken of negatively. Here are some thoughts to remember when your reputation is being questioned:


- ◆ If it is true, then we have some apologizing and changing to do.
- ◆ If it is not true, consider the source of the rebuke. In John the Baptist's and Jesus' case it was people that Jesus considered immature "children" (Mat. 11:16). Is the one speaking ill of you someone that has great discernment, or someone that is in the flesh and not being led spiritually?
- ◆ If they are seeing things in the wrong way, or not hearing both sides of the situation (Pro. 18:13), it is their error, not yours.

Some spoke negatively of Jesus. How could we expect better treatment than God's only Son?

It really is impossible to please all the people all the time!

## Walking As He Walked


*Bible Readings for the Home*

 The way of the Christian was set for us by Jesus himself.

*"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."*


*I John 2:6*

*"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:" I Peter 2:21*

 The footprints that Jesus set for us to follow, lead unvaryingly along the way of God's commandments.

*"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10*

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:3*

 The pathway is the same today as when Jesus walked in Judea.

*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Heb. 13:8*

## Won by His Wife's Faith

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She answered, "Christ is my Lord. I trust in Him. Surely, I can give this child to Him who gave Himself for me."

From that instant the man became a believer. "There must," he reasoned, "be some truth and some power in the Gospel which could lead you to believe in such a manner under such a trial."

***"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." II Cor. 10:12***

***"Live so you wouldn't be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."***