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Dear Associates and Friends,

January 2019

Two doctrinal articles are presented this month: "[Memory in Luke](#)" and "[Further Decline of the Churches.](#)" These two articles are not connected to each other, but each is interesting.

"Memory in Luke"

Luke, the beloved physician (Colossians 4:14), worked to compile sources to present to you and to me what witnesses of the acts of Jesus reported during His time on earth as Immanuel (which means "God with us," from Isaiah 7:14, 8:8), spelled Emmanuel in Matthew 1:23. The accounts did not necessarily come to Luke through the twelve disciples of Jesus, His closest companions in preaching the Gospel before and after His resurrection, but Luke's sources were common people who observed the life and ministry of Jesus.

Your memory is unique to you although God keeps a record of everything you have done and said.¹ He also keeps a book. A person is either listed in that book and will receive salvation when Messiah comes (He who is Jesus returning). Those not in the book will have to wait and undergo judgment to be saved later.²

"Further Decline of the Churches"

Christian churches are failing at an increasing rate. Declining membership, loss of revenues and contributions, and even the sale of the church buildings are happening around the world. This is not a sign of the great falling away that Paul talks about in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3. The falling away that Paul talks about is a falling away from the truths of God, not the fantasy teachings of mainstream Catholic, Protestant, and Evangelical Christian religion, much of which is not truth but the traditions of men and doctrines of demons not derived from Scripture.

I was surprised at the amount of information available on this subject since I looked into this matter for my May 2002 Commentary, "[The Decline of the Churches](#)" which is why most of my references in the article have very recent information. One major reason attendance is declining is because people do not think it is important to attend church. Who can blame them? If people feel they do not benefit from regularly attending a congregation, why should they return? As I write in the article, such people do not have "**itching ears**" (2 Timothy 4:3), they are simply hungry for spiritual "**meat**" (Hebrews 5:12–14). Recognize the difference. It takes a great deal of time, but slowly you will grow as the apostle Peter wrote:

"You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

• **2 Peter 3:17–18**

God's Spirit within us causes us to desire "**the deep things of God.**" They become accessible to our intellect but not our feelings, without emotion, allowing us to understand the elegance of God's word:

"As it is written, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the

¹ God's records on each of us are even more extensive than the files the NSA and Google have recorded on all of us. You can "**Believe it ... or not.**"

² See my March 2013 Commentary "[Writings in Heaven](#)" and Exodus 32:32; Psalm 69:28; Isaiah 4:3; Ezekiel 13:9; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; [Philippians 4:3](#); and Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27, 22:19.

things which God has prepared for them that love him' [quoting Isaiah 64:4]. **But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.**

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."

• 1 Corinthians 2:9–12

Upcoming Articles

In February 2019, God willing, I hope to produce an article on a Jerusalem conference that focused on the Gihon Spring Temple location discovered and researched by Dr. Ernest Martin.

Then in March 2019, I intend to publish the next episode in the Israel and Judah History Series. It will be about the involved events surrounding the Assyrian destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of Hoshea. When that occurred the Kingdom of Judah under young King Hezekiah was wondering if they were to be attacked next.

In April 2019, I look forward to producing an article on human sacrifice and the Bible. You will find the information interesting, surprising, and even shocking. Even though I have written on this subject in various places, the subject of human sacrifice has been secondary to my main message.

One More Time ... Request Receipts for Your Contributions

Toward the end of every year and in January, we remind you about requesting receipts of contributions for 2018. You must ask us for a receipt. We do not automatically send them to all contributors. We shall send it to you in a timely manner when requested to do so.

Thank You

As always, we are grateful for your support of ASK this past year. Ramona Martin and I hope that those of you who are new readers of the ASK website will see your way to contribute to ASK as you find value in what you read, listen to, and watch on our website.

We receive letters and emails from people who search the “interweb” on a topic (usually biblical) and find the ASK website has an article that addresses what they seek, whether information by Dr. Ernest Martin or myself. Some of those people explore the site more and we might receive messages expressing joy and wonder at the breadth of topics, all presented without the usual theological nonsense and traditions of men.

Dr. Ernest Martin founded ASK in 1985. In the 34 years since, monthly articles, occasional commentaries, and books have been published; audios and readings of ASK books (thank you Charlie Corder!) and many of the articles (thanks also to the late GeorgeAnn Hughes) have been produced, and even a few videos are available (some free and some for purchase). All of the ASK books are free online. [*ABCs of the Gospel*](#) is available free online only in download and audio format. (It is a small book, too expensive to print and ship at this time.) All other books are available for purchase. That way readers in Antarctica, in Mongolia, and the Maldiv Islands (off the southern coast of India) can read ASK material when mail delivery is unfortunately not reliable.

Of the 7.6 billion people in the world, 4.2 billion have the internet available to them, so says the “[World Internet Stats: Usage and Population Statistics](#)” website. We humbly solicit your prayers that God bring more of the 4.2 billion to the ASK website.

Thank you for all your prayers. We thank God and Christ for providing faithful financial support so ASK can continue to research and produce biblical materials that are useful for the *ekklesia* of God and the body of Christ around the world.

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