

## Announcement Letter May 2021

Dear Brethren:

This month will mark our keeping of the Day of Pentecost once again, and what a blessing that we all have in understanding the significance of this Holy Day in God's Plan, and especially the ability to keep it fully and correctly as He has revealed to His true Church. All of you who receive this letter are among those given the special privilege of being part of that Church—the Body of Jesus Christ—today, the very firstfruits of God's work in this age. To all of you who share a love for that Way of Life, we greet you once again with sincere prayers for your health and well-being, and most importantly, for your success spiritually in fulfilling that incredible calling.

### **Spiritual Principle: Choosing What God Made vs. Man's Perversions**

Our real test for salvation can be summarized as choosing to accept and to cherish what God made and commanded vs. what man offers by his changes and perversions. That very contrast is visible in virtually every life choice confronting God's people, and so it has been since the very beginning of time. God reveals the truth of the matter (whatever the particular topic may be), and then man—in his foolishness and rebellion—seeks to change or to "improve upon" what God gave. Human beings never actually make anything better, but they never cease to think that they can do so. The end result of man's wisdom always is "bad fruit."

This dynamic can be seen in all aspects of human existence upon the earth, but let us take food as just one specific example to make the point.

God—who made man—gave instructions for how to take care of these physical bodies. God's *instruction manual* for "care and maintenance" of the human body includes not eating any meats except for those specifically made to be good for us (Leviticus 11). Man disagrees and justifies eating any creature he chooses. His medical sciences focus upon methodical dietary studies which emphasize the value of "protein content" within meats like pork, shellfish, and all manner of creeping things. Because he cannot discover the invisible elements (laws) in play which prove that God's instructions are valid, he presumes that they are *not valid*, and that, after all, he knows better. At the other extreme, man also champions concepts like vegetarianism, which likewise is a departure from what God said is good for man's balanced diet, and which equally generates curses to our bodies.

One of the brethren recently commented on some statements made by Mr. Raymond Cole in his sermon series about marriage and divorce. While covering the concept of *perversion* as it applies to marriage (Technicalities of Divorce & Remarriage #4), he made *an aside* to apply the very same principle to food. Even as God commanded Israel not to try to improve upon what He commanded them to do, human beings invariably ignore this warning and seek to offer "something better." It is still going on today in exactly the same way.

Years ago, Mr. Cole used to comment upon coffee, as an example. Man seeks to offer a "healthier" alternative with *decaffeinated* coffee. Even if we cannot confirm the true health ramifications when man *tinkers* with a natural product that God made, it is likely that man has made it worse, not better. Mr. Cole used to advise, if you are going to drink coffee, drink it from the whole bean that God made, otherwise, do not drink it at all.

Just consider all of the other food offerings available in stores today. Knowing that there is huge demand being generated by people wanting to "eat healthy," many packaged foods are marketed especially to appeal to these consumers. Terms like "all natural," "healthy," "heart-smart," and "organic" are used to attract these customers. Yet, what is the actual evidence for their labeling claims? Often, man's latest scientific "wisdom" is touted to "confirm" that a product has nutritional value.

For instance, even though God made a chicken egg as a perfect food, man's wisdom decided years ago that eggs are bad because they have "cholesterol." Since cholesterol is found in the yolk, man decided that either eliminating or else "modifying" that yolk can make the egg "healthier." So they began to offer "egg substitutes," providing artificially colored egg whites which look like yellow eggs, howbeit lacking any of the yolk material that God made. Even though more recent scientific studies have debunked the notion that eating eggs increases heart disease, the "anti-cholesterol" hype has made a lasting impact upon the consumer psyche and has taken its toll upon our eating habits. All kinds of *modified eggs* can be found at the market today, including *enriched eggs*, *Vitamin E enhanced designer eggs*, and a host of others. Some of these are produced through creative changes in the diet of the production hens, or even through the genetic modification of the chickens themselves. The point is, there is no end to man's attempts to "improve upon" what is found in nature, as God made it.

The same is true of other commodities, like milk. God made cow and goat milk to be good for food. Man, however, concludes that milk is "dangerous," so human governments mandate pasteurization, homogenization, and multiple options to "take out" fat to make it "safer." Well-meaning people who decide to become "heart healthy" begin to eat these modified and perverted concoctions and find that not only is their health not better, but they

have brought upon themselves additional diseases due to medically induced dietary deficiencies. It is all so absurd.

What about the idea of eating "organic" foods? To the extent that this means using proper growing methods that follow God's principles of farming, that is terrific. But beware! The USDA government website defines the term "organic" as being limited to the exclusion of any synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering in *the growing of the crops*. Therefore, anything that legally carries the "Organic" food label must meet these USDA standards and avoid using these practices in farming. There is no problem for us in this, and in fact, to the extent that produce is actually grown "organically," it will be much healthier than the alternative.

However, what many of God's people seem not to understand is that the term "Organic," legally—for marketing purposes—has nothing to do with how that farm produce is *later processed and packaged*. You can start with a healthy tomato, because it was organically grown without herbicides, pesticides, or other harmful practices. But does that mean that a tomato ketchup labeled as "organic" makes that final product healthy? Hardly! For example, the Heinz company now makes a ketchup whose label reads in bold letters, "Organic Certified." But what is actually in the list of ingredients? Here it is:

INGREDIENTS: ORGANIC TOMATO CONCENTRATE FROM RED RIPE ORGANIC TOMATOES, ORGANIC DISTILLED VINEGAR, ORGANIC CANE SUGAR, SALT, ORGANIC ONION POWDER, ORGANIC SPICE, NATURAL FLAVORING.

This label does not claim that the cane sugar included was actually kept intact to preserve all of the natural elements in the plant as God made it. No, they start with organically grown sugar cane, sure enough, but then *process it just like other sugar cane*, reducing it to that poisonous "white sugar" that is a killer. White sugar is a curse to the human body every single time, whether it derives from organic cane or not. Yet here is a product tempting you to believe that it is healthy because it is "organic." What a deception! And what about that last element on the ingredient list—"natural flavoring"? That is just a legal term to describe *monosodium glutamate* (MSG). MSG is a "flavor enhancer," likewise a poison to the human body. So how healthy, really, is this organic tomato ketchup? It is exactly the opposite of healthy. This is just one more example of man taking what God made—the tomato—and processing it through human wisdom to produce something that will taste good (to perverted human taste buds), all the while being touted as "healthy," and therefore making the producers rich. It is not healthy. It is a perversion!

These are only a few brief examples to make the point that you are living in a world where human wisdom is worshiped as the "real" salvation for mankind. That deception is found in *all aspects of life in this world*, including the teaching about diet, and the processing and labeling of food. Unless you come to value eating what God made, the way He made it, and cutting out all products offered by man to modify or to "improve" upon nature, you will likewise get caught up in the same lie that God warned Israel to escape. A word to the wise.

All of these principles will be covered in more detail in a forthcoming sermon series on diet and health, but recognizing this fundamental principle right now might make all the difference to you in helping make yourself separate from the world and saving you and your families from many of the world's physical curses.

## **Death**

It saddens us to announce the death of longtime member, Mr. Antonio Gil, of Sevilla, Spain, on Thursday, April 22. Mr. Gil's health had been declining slowly for some time. He was 88 at the time of his death. We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Denise, and his extended family.

## **New Moons**

The new moon, Sivan (third month), begins Tuesday evening, May 11. The new moon day is Wednesday, May 12.

The new moon, Tammuz (fourth month), begins Thursday evening, June 10. The new moon day is Friday, June 11.

## **Holy Day**

Pentecost ..... Monday, May 24

## Trip Schedule

**Jon W. Brisby**

May 22, 24 (Pentecost) ..... Stephenville, Texas

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 254	04-15-21	05-08-21	Remorse vs. Repentance
WSE-RC 46-2	04-15-21	05-15-21	Marriage and Separation #2
WSE-RC 46-3	04-15-21	05-22-21	Marriage and Separation #3
Pentecost	04-08-21	05-24-21	Holy Day Sermons
WSE-RC 46-4	05-06-21	05-29-21	Marriage and Separation #4
WSE-JWB 256	05-06-21	06-05-21	Are They for Us or Against Us?
WSE-RC 66-1	05-06-21	06-12-21	Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #1
WSE-JWB 225-37	05-27-21	06-19-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #37

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby