

Sealed Against that Day!

Ephesians 4:17-30 (KJV) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: [19] Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. [20] **But ye have not so learned Christ;** [21] If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: [22] That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is **corrupt** according to the deceitful lusts; [23] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [24] And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. [25] Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. [26] Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil. [28] Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. [29] Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. [30] **And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

Do you ever get tired of trying to open something that you just bought? You have to use a chainsaw, metal shears, or a chops just to get it open!

It wasn't always that way!

In September of 1982, a 12 year old girl named Mary Kellerman died suddenly in Chicago, from simply taking Tylenol. Six other deaths were quick to follow.

They had all taken Tylenol.

At first no one knew there was a connection, they were just simply random, mysterious deaths, but law enforcement, with the help of one single highly observant nurse, quickly put the pieces together and discovered that all of the victims had taken Tylenol just before death.

They notified Tylenol and tested the victims recent purchases from stores across Chicago.

They contained a deadly substance called Potassium Cyanide.

Tylenol immediately ceased advertisement, started a campaign to tell people to stop taking the product. Meanwhile the police drove up and down the streets of Chicago telling people by loudspeaker to “STOP TAKING TYLENOL!”

Johnson & Johnson, the makers of Tylenol immediately recalled all bottles across the nation. There were 31 million bottles in circulation. The cost was staggering, \$100 million, that is \$267 million in today’s dollars [I wrote this in 2018].

Yet, determined to resolve the issue Johnson & Johnson was honest with the public, suffering a staggering stock loss, but worked ahead anyway.

In the end, they came up with an industry first, THE TRIPLE-SEALED PRODUCT.

Johnson & Johnson carved a pathway, by great expense for the rest of the food and drug industry, actually paving the way for the FDA to implement standards across the board.

Within a year, while having suffered heavy financial losses and costs, Tylenol rebounded and became the #1 provider of over the counter analgesic nationwide.

ALL BECAUSE OF A SEAL!!!

The power of a seal is shown when the creator of the product states that it has been tested and kept as safe until it arrived in your hands. That no one anywhere between has tampered with the product - it was preserved as intended for you.

A seal is powerful!

Esther 8:7-8 (KJV) Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. [8] Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and **seal it with the king's ring:** for the writing which is written in the king's name, and **sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.**

Daniel 6:16-17 (KJV) Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. [17] And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and **the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.**

A seal can make a big difference.

Just think, this is canning season and we take the summer and fall harvest and fruits and we preserve them for our use and enjoyment in the dead of winter, when the deep snow covers the ground and there isn't a vegetable or fruit in sight. Then we go to the shelf, take down a jar, set it on the counter and open it. When we do, we hear the welcoming and reassuring sound, 'ssssthump'. The can has just been unsealed and is ready to use. If we didn't hear that sound or if the lid of the jar is not depressed, we know it isn't safe to eat...why? Because it didn't seal. It either didn't seal or the seal was broken somewhere along the way.

We know that the seal being broken means the contents inside were not properly preserved or could be contaminated. This contamination could make us sick or even kill us.

So how do we can? How do we preserve food like this?

First, we must completely wash and sanitize everything used. We sanitize the jars, the lids, the utensils all by a boiling water 'bath'. Then we prepare the food for canning as we like it. Then we place it in the jars, put them in water and boil for a set amount of time.

This process of heating, kills any remaining bacteria or other unwanted germs, that would destroy what is inside while it is sealed, but nearly just as important for preservation, albeit not nutrition, it kills the naturally present enzymes in fruits and vegetables that digest *itself*. If memory serves correctly, it is something like a 1.3:1 ratio of enzymes to normal digestion. Either way, whether exactly accurate or not, there are more enzymes than what is needed for that fruit or vegetable alone. Which is why fruits and vegetables can be excellent for digestive health.

The point is, *within* the fruit is also the power to destroy the fruit. When an apple falls to the ground, or rather *before*, it falls to the ground, this process has already begun. The enzymes present start to break down the fruit and in essence causing it to eventually digest itself. Once it falls to the ground, the bacteria, bugs, critters and other microorganisms do the rest, returning it to the soil.

All of this applies to us, in both a physical and spiritual sense. We all have within us the means and power to destroy ourselves, which we inevitably will do if left to ourselves - without some method of preservation. We will rot from the inside out and return to the dust from whence we came!

Thus the canning process. Once the jars are 'bathed' in water this second time for the prescribed timeframe, they are taken out and placed on the countertop and after cooling you will start to hear the 'pop, pop, pop' of the jars sealing.

Now you can put it on your shelf and smile. What would have only lasted a few days without this process will now last years.

The Scripture tells us that we live in a world that is full of corruption, or decay. The substances of death are all around us. Without a way to stop this process there is no hope for humanity and society.

Yet, God does have a solution!

The first thing God does when a person give's over their life, is He takes all the wicked things, the corrupt things, the dirty things out of their life.

This is called **repentance**. Where a person, confesses all of the wrong, sinful and dirty things they have done to God, giving it all into His hands, and then asks Him for deliverance and forgiveness, while making a covenant with God to never go back to them. God takes all of this sin and nastiness and casts it behind His back and He forgives that person, free and clear and completely.

Then God washes out their life with water. This is called **Baptism**.

1 Corinthians 6:9, 11 (KJV) Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? [11] And such were some of you: **but ye are washed**, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 3:20-21 (KJV) Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. [21] **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Revelation 1:5 (KJV) And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

Then God places us into a Divine place where the process is completed. He puts us into His Presence in such a powerful way, the 'heat', as it were is applied to us.

The Scripture says, in **Matthew 3:11 (KJV)** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

Then somewhere during this process, as we wait on the promise of God, suddenly, without warning and without prediction... 'pop'. There is a sound heard.

Acts 10:44-46 (KJV) While Peter yet spake these words, the **Holy Ghost fell** on all them which heard the word. [45] And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.** [46] **For they heard them speak with tongues,** and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Another one sealed! We know that the **Holy Ghost** is that seal by the following.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (KJV) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. [21] Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; [22] **Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

The word 'sealed' here means, *to stamp for security or preservation.* The Holy Ghost quite literally preserves us for this life until the next when the bride is revealed and the Lord returns.

Ephesians 1:10-14 (KJV) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: [11] In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: [12] That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. [13] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,** [14] Which is the earnest of our inheritance **until the redemption of the purchased possession,** unto the praise of his glory.

Thank God we are sealed and preserved against that day!!

God is able to keep His own.

John 10:27-29 (KJV) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: [28] And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Phillip A. Kelley

ecclesiasticalresearches.com

04/21/2024