

# Red Letter Edition

Jan. 2013

What did Jesus Say?

Eleventh Month 6012

**Eleventh  
Month 6012**  
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**Beyond the  
Printed  
Word**

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## True Confessions

**"I was a blanket-toting thumb-sucker! (There, I said it - the secret's out.)**

As many of you know, I spend a great deal of time trying to encourage people to evaluate their Spiritual lives in a realistic fashion, pushing them to be more and more critical of the props and rituals that seem to bolster weakness in faith. It's really cute when two-year-olds are in 10-inch-deep water with inflatable water wings on each arm and a life preserver under their bums while bobbing up and down saying, "I'm swimming! I'm swimming!" But, it generates a totally different thought if it is a forty-year-old man.

Having no desire to be critical or cruel, I persuade folks to try the water for themselves and test their ability to swim without the props and confirmations.

I once heard a preacher giving advice to a smoker to replace his pack of cigarettes with a small New Testament. He went on to tell him (can you hear me in my finest southern accent) that he himself had conquered smoking by just "remembrin' Jesus" whenever he reached for a smoke. (Any of you who have never smoked might think this is a good idea - everyone else are rolling their eyes.)

Is this person better or worse? If you exchange booze for valium - or your snuff box for a bag of chips; if you trade your

cross for a Star of David, have you denied yourself or have you denied the truth *about* yourself?

We are pitiful creatures seeking comfort, help, and assurance. We need parents! We need love and someone to trust! Our Father knows this and makes allowances, but think of the forty-year-old in the backyard plastic pool - it ain't funny anymore.

John 20:29, **"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."**

Some are blessed (happy and favored) because they are able to believe without confirmations. Until we figure out why the thumb is in our mouth, we will never even consider taking it out.

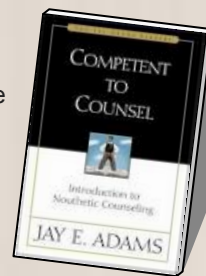
A beloved ThInKer struggled with the issue of wearing tzit tzit. Whether to wear them was a question of perfection. If this dear one had struggled with embarrassment, commandment keeping, or general religious issues, I would have counseled differently, but the concern came from a genuine desire for perfection. The issue was finally resolved within and that resolution has been articulated well in this letter which I now share with you:

(Continued on page 2)

## TRI Bookshelf

**Don Harris** did NOT write this book! (But you may think he did!) many years ago, Jay Adams wrote this valuable treatise on nouthetic counseling. It is recommended this

month on the **TRI Bookshelf**. On Page 5



# Red Letter Edition

(Continued from page 1)

## LETTER TO TRI

*"When my family embraced the instructions given in the Tanak, we studied many Messianic teachings and we willingly wore the fringes as instructed by the Almighty to the children of Israel. We did so because in our understanding at the time it was clearly a commandment given to the nation of Israel and were instructions overseen by Moses.*

*Our family chose to wear an object specifically instructed by our Creator which was helpful in the natural to remind and direct us; and, although it was not the reason prescribed for them, we found it opened up opportunities to share with others. We believed it was a symbol which reflected our faith and commitment of the Law and Author of the Commandments. After all, we reasoned, our Savior did not wear a cross around His neck or a fish on His garment, but He did wear tzitiot. We concluded that if we were to wear anything, it would be only what had been instructed by our Heavenly Father and not the latest "Christian trend".*

*Long before the empowerment obtained through the baptism of the Spirit by fire, the children of Israel had only the prophets and ceremonial laws containing deep spiritual truths. The Mosaic covenant was a temporary mechanism to keep the children of Israel safe until Messiah could impart His Holy Spirit. Since the change in priesthood and our atonement through the offering of Y'shua, we are capable of walking out a higher plane of instructions. Y'shua came to maximize (fulfill) the instructions of the Almighty and the Comforter has been provided to transform us into obedient children who desire to hear daily instructions from the voice of Yahweh.*

*The Law of tzit tzit was given to help us to "remember." Remember what? We are to remember the Commandment to keep the Sabbath. We must do whatever it takes to make*

*ALL of the Commandments a significant part of our lives. The wearing of the tzit tzit is similar to the remedies and rules found in the Law which speak of cleansing or dealing with various offences which had been committed. If we are not breaking the Laws of Yahweh, we have no need to practice the remedies for these offences. On the other hand, if we continue to break the Commandments of the Almighty, it might be necessary to use whatever physical object or token he has instructed until the observance of His way (the Yah-Way) is second nature to us.*









*We must remember the Law became more and more complicated because man was so incapable of keeping even the easiest of them. This happened not because the Laws of YHVH were impossible to keep, but because we had not been imparted with grace (power) to keep them. From the time of Pentecost (Shavuot) we have available to us the power to fulfill the requirements and instructions from our Heavenly Father through the Messiah who came to give grace and truth.*

*John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."*

*We know the Law is "good," so what is the*

(Continued on page 6)

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# Red Letter Edition



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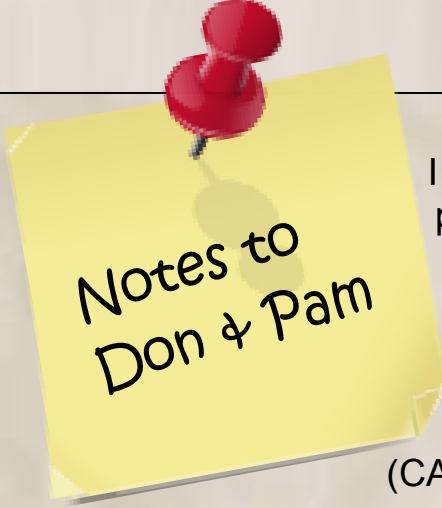


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# Red Letter Edition



Notes to  
Don & Pam

I got your book a couple years ago and from it I became passionate about studying the questions of Yeshua. I was a Baptist for fifty eight years, about seven years ago I left the Baptist Church, when I became convicted by two things that Yeshua said. "If you love me, keep my commandments," and "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

(CA)

My husband and I have begun a fellowship in the East Coast area. Thank you so much for blessing us with your teachings. I first saw your Ministry on GLC when I moved to Abilene, Texas years ago. And I have been a Thinker ever since. (NC)

Thank you for the DVD you sent. I am so appreciative of you and Don. What I have learned is so life-changing. I had an aunt die the other day at age 92. I got out II Esdras and followed her 7 day journey according to that scripture. Wow Reality is more interesting than all this false doctrine we have been taught. I wondered too what she thought when she beheld Him.

A FEW DAYS LATER...Am becoming a little more familiar with this wonderful scripture than I had intended at least for now. My 46 year old son died the 29th of a heart attack. Today is his fifth day of the seven... I guess his heart was just worn out. I will really miss him. He was on disability and lived with us. Nothing will ever be the same. Life is short and fragile huh? Even though we knew he wasn't well it's still a shock. You aren't supposed to bury your children.

SUBSEQUENTLY...I feel at peace. What a gift! It is difficult for many though. My work brought out KFC for 50 yesterday. I haven't seen so much chicken in one place since I was a kid on the farm!!! It was so good not to have to cook and clean. Thank you for writing me. It is so good to have understanding people to talk to. Love you (TX)

Don, I finished your book, The Questions of Jesus, (the black one), and found your work magnificent. As with all of us I have suffered through books written by "noted" religious people, plus some that were far too foolish to waste the paper on, but I found your thoughts and concepts lead by the Word of God and clearly stated. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for sharing those thoughts and

## COMPETENT TO COUNSEL

by Jay Adams

Modern psychiatry and psychology has proven to be an utter failure for many people, but especially for Christians. Instead of gaining victory over sin through the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, many Christians are given advice to either modify their behavior, or to choke down yet another drug to mask their symptoms. In his book, *Competent to Counsel*, Jay Adams advocates a specific type of Christian counseling, one that Paul refers to in Colossians as nouthetic counseling.

**“We proclaim him confronting every man nouthetically, and teaching every man with all wisdom in order that we may present every man complete in Christ.”**

~ Colossians 1:28

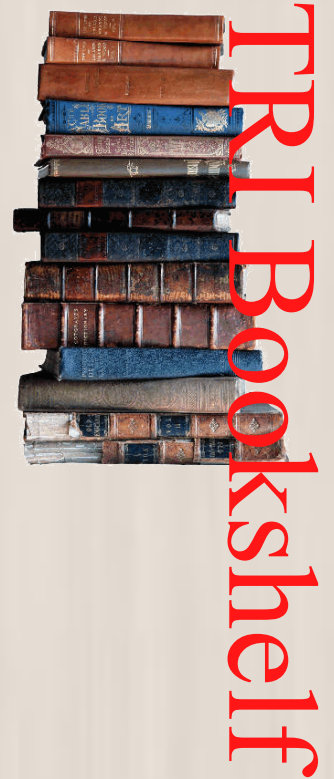


According to Paul, we must confront each other nouthetically, that is to say, counsel each other in truth, with knowledge and kindness. This type of counseling is the work of the Holy Spirit, and should be a daily occurrence in the lives of believers. It consists of three basic elements: 1) a problem that must be overcome, 2) an exchange between brethren that truthfully deals with the sin in a person's life (and consequently places full responsibility at the feet of the sinner), and 3) an understanding that the correction is motivated by a deep concern for the individual. The ultimate purpose of nouthetic

counseling is to bring about a lasting change in a person's life so that Jehovah can be glorified. Read this book

to discover how much success this technique has had over traditional psychology methods, how to solve problems nouthetically as a counselor, and how to apply additional teachings associated with this type of counseling. The most helpful and fundamental insight of this book for me is that if I don't love truth in every facet of my life, how can I possibly advise others that they need to as well?

~ A Fellow **ThINKer**



# Red Letter Edition

(Continued from page 2)

**meaning of the following Scripture in Ezekiel?**

**Ezekiel 20:24-25, "Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;"**

**It becomes more clear that we must keep our instructions in context and bring forth the provisions of Messiah. Our Savior made changes to the Law. He has not "done away" with any of it, but He has made much of it of no effect to those who are obedient by the power given to us. This truly is the good news of the Gospel!**

**Do we obey the Law or our Messiah? My family has learned that at times and according to specific situations, we can only obey one of these. When we sought our position concerning self defense and what we would do in these times of trouble, we found a clear provision in the Law for spilling blood (Exodus 22:2), but when we searched the teachings of Messiah we found not one example. Our family had to make a choice to obey the instructions of the Law (the Law of the Letter) or follow the instructions of Messiah (the Law of the Spirit).**


**If a choice must be made between the Written Word and the Living Word my family has decided to obey the one which creates in us a new heart. We believe the instructions for the tzit tzit fall into this category. The instructions to wear the fringes must give way to the power of Messiah to convert the common sinful person into a new creature - the power which allows us to walk in a new nature under the re-newed covenant from the Abrahamic and not the Mosaic covenant."**

\*\*\*\*\*

I remember the day my training wheels (that my dad put on my bike to keep me from falling over) grabbed the ground while I was taking a corner with some speed and flipped me into a ditch. The wreck was not my dad's intention - he was trying to keep me safe. Somewhere along the way... I had learned to ride a bike. Those wheels hadn't 6

touched the ground in months; but, when they did, they thwarted the intention for which they were installed.

Learning better and starting over is grace not disgrace. The Apostle admonished in Hebrews 6:1-3, "Let's leave the dogma of the doctrine of Christ, not laying again the foundation of repentance, and of faith toward God, doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment... let us go on unto perfection!" Do you want this in red ink? Matthew 19:21, *"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect... follow me."*



Notes to  
Don & Pam

(Continued from page 4) **LETTERS**

**convictions. Out of all I have read on any topic, your work takes top honors; on a scale of 1-10 yours takes a 50! (CO)**

Thanks for the DVD of the November '09 Light of the Southwest program. We really enjoyed hearing more of your Quaker background. (NM)



*Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something BLEW!***Something Old...Part 1**

*Lila married her high school sweetheart*

*just after graduation. She and Hank could hardly wait to begin their family.*

*Good thing as she was already two months pregnant.*

*“Well”, she reasoned, “they were in love and get-*

*ting married anyway.” Sex was the natural progression of their*

***Sex was the natural progression of their relationship... as long they did get married?”***

*relationship... and what did it matter if she was a little pregnant before marriage*

*– as long they did get married?”*

*Hank had been promoted to manager after graduation and with confidence in his ability to provide for a family, he insisted that Lila stay home, be a housewife and prepare for the arrival of the baby. She was happy to do so and felt fulfillment in her role as wife as she*

(Continued on page 2)

*From the Editor*

At last, after many years of requests from ladies only, we offer a means to share our experiences and knowledge with each other. As volunteer editor, I can tell you that further issues will be contingent upon the popularity of *Thinking Pink*. Several ladies have offered to contribute and all submissions will be considered (by and FOR LADIES ONLY, of course!) If you have a story, recipe, household tip, parenting, things for kids, homeschooling, etc. to

share, please email them to

[Pam@ThinkRedInk.com](mailto:Pam@ThinkRedInk.com)

I am not a bible scholar or theologian. (I'll leave the theology to my “Think Red Ink husband”.) Simply put, my experience comes from being a wife and mother for over 40 years. Twice-married myself, I may lack credibility with some who might think, “What does she know about a good marriage? She's been divorced.” But, from the standpoint of being an older woman in hope of helping the

younger, I humbly offer these insights gained from that most difficult of teachers, Experience..

The ladies that will be depicted in these stories are not real – at least not in the person of an individual. The women are, in reality, composites of many ladies, including myself. The names have been fabricated and the stories compiled in order to preserve their trust in me after they shared their hearts in confidence.

Pam Harris

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"Neither Hank nor Lila have the time nor the inclination for each other anymore. Happiness is in short supply and their marriage is lifeless..."

(Continued from page 1)

## Part 1 - Something Old...

*looked forward to becoming a mother. Life was good.*

*Fast forward 12 months...little Sarah is beautiful, but colicky. Her young parents are tired from many sleepless nights and are growing more and more weary through her bouts of incessant crying. Hank is*

*working long hours trying to keep up with the demands of his new position in management. An ambitious young man, he wants his efforts to be noticed by the "powers that be." He often doesn't make it home in time for dinner and upon arriving finds Lila asleep on the sofa trying to catch up on her sleep.*

*Neither Hank nor Lila have the time nor the inclination for each other anymore. Happiness is in short supply and their marriage is lifeless. So much effort is needed to maintain their relationship that marriage itself is just another unpleasant task in their days of hard work and hardships ...*

## "...to have and to hold from this day forward..."

No matter how long they have been married, many women are frequently unhappy in their marriages. Some doubt their wisdom in their choice of husbands; a few of these ladies call me. Conversation ranges from feelings of despair, "What do I do now?" to, "I should've never married this guy...I'm done!" To the former, I usually respond, "What do you think you should do?" (There's little to say to those who have already made up their minds.)

We always have a choice. Since you consider yourself a Christian, the bible likely will play a role in your decision-making process. So, we will first look there for answers. Let's begin at the beginning...

Genesis 2:24, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*

Genesis 3:16, *"Unto the woman he said, I will*

*greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

Subsequent Old Testament books discuss the importance of fidelity before and after marriage and the obligation of the husband to care for his wife as well as reasons to "write her a bill of divorcement" and "send her out of his house." These books are replete with stories about wives, but always and only with mention of their husbands and they never give wives the right to make any decisions regarding the status of their marriages.

What about the New Testament?

Jesus quoted the same Scriptures when asked about marriage and divorce, *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* (Mark 10:7-9)

(Continued from page 2)

He further elaborated, *"And if a woman shall ...be married to another, she committeth adultery."* (Mark 10:12).

The last time we see Jesus discussing marriage had little to do with marriage itself but is in response to a question posed by the Sadducees, *"...The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage."* (Luke 20:34-35)

The Apostle Paul (whom no one seems to agree on whether he himself had ever been married) seems to discourage marriage unless sex cannot be avoided.

Furthermore, he explains that God may allow divorce (Because of hardness of heart?) but never allows for re-marriage,

*"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I [unmarried?]. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain*

Th**INK** on these things and submit your contributions for the next issue: Pam@ThinkRedInk.com

*unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."* (1 Corinthians 7:1-11)

So, if we are to take the bible for what it says regarding marriage and divorce:

- 1) Men have the choice to divorce their wives (not the other way around) and
- 2) If a wife finds herself divorced by her husband, she is not free to marry again.

Th**INK** on these things. In the next issue, we will look at *"Something new..."*



## Encouragement for Help-Meets

by Laura Misenheimer

Congratulations to all you Th**INK**ing wives out there who have been chosen by your husband to be his help-meet! Being a suitable helper is a choice we must make every day, and for many of us it does not come easily. I can conceive of a day in the future when it *will* be my nature, but for now I continue to struggle.

My husband and I have been married for thirteen years already, and I still feel like there is so much I don't know. Many of you have decades of marital wisdom under your belts, some may be newlyweds, and still others are widows. We need to learn from each other, and it is scriptural for our elders to instruct the younger women on how to be good

and faithful wives. All of us share a common bond: the desire to please Jehovah through obedience to our husbands. It is our calling to figure out what our mates' desire and to serve them with a joyful heart. This road is often a lonely one with very few role models and virtually no one to pat us on the back for a job well done. The world cannot comprehend the strength that it takes to submit our own wills to that of our husband's for the sake of peace in our homes. We are considered dinosaurs in our society, and a threat to the modern woman and "all that she has fought so hard to achieve."

(Continued on page 4)



P.O. Box 718  
Pie Town, NM 87827  
575-772-2588  
888-578-7867  
INFO@ThinkRedInk.com

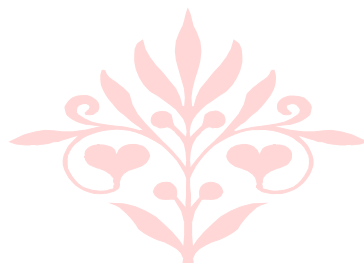
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to Editor:  
Pam@ThinkRedInk.com

(Continued from page 3)

For all the wives who are striving to submit, take heart. There is One who is aware of every tear shed and every prayer offered up in our attempts to get this thing called marriage right. As we lean on Jehovah for understanding, there is always His grace (power) to live righteously and to love and forgive well beyond our own capabilities.

As we converse together, let us counsel one another in truth with wisdom and kindness, encourage one another, lift up our husbands (who likewise, are at various levels of maturing in Christ, and painfully there are some who do not know Him at all) and not grow weary in our task as helpers.

While at different stops on our journey toward perfection, we must keep our hearts focused on the only thing that matters: hearing our Messiah's treasured words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"



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## *A Red Checkered Apron Recipe*

### **Sour Dough Cowboy Biscuits**



5 cups flour,  
½ cup sugar  
½ c. shortening,  
1 tsp. salt  
4 tsp baking powder  
¼ tsp soda  
2 pkgs. yeast dissolved in ¾ c warm water  
2 c. buttermilk

Mix well. Store in greased bowl in the refrigerator (up to 2 wks). Make out biscuits; let rise 30 minutes. Bake in 400 oven.

Submitted by: Hiltona Castleberry, NM