

thing was good. (Rom. 14:17). "For the Kingdom of God is NOT meat and drink; but Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Now to sum up: There are only two codes of Laws in the Bible: THE TEN . . . written by the FINGER OF GOD; "and He added no more." (Deut. 5:22); then the precepts written by Moses in the Book of the Covenant . . . (Ex. 24:7 and Deut. 31:9, 24, 25, 26). This Law was given to Israel to teach them greater obedience and honour to the magnified Law of God that Christ would teach. Then there were things (meats) untouchable to them (unclean). (Col. 2:20-22). But after Christ came He taught "in OLD TIME it was said" . . . But "I say unto you." . . . (Matt. 5)

Peter was fearful of the precepts he had grown up with, and honoured so long . . . He contended with the Lord about this, but the voice from Heaven rebuked him saying: "Rise Peter, kill and eat." (And God spoke three times emphatically). And He further said, "What I HAVE CLEANSED, call thou not common (unclean)." (Acts 10:14, 16 and 1st Tim. 4:4-6).

Nothing is to be refused if received with Thanksgiving. Let's give God Thanks for Everything.

— by A. H. Stith
337 Meridian St.
Meridian, Idaho

"BUT EVEN UNTO THIS DAY,
WHEN MOSES IS READ,
THE VAIL IS UPON THEIR HEART."

2 Cor. 3:15

The Law of Moses; what does it contain? . . . It is called the Book of The Law. This is a code of Law, assembled, and written in a book. (By Moses) (Deut. 31:24.) It is called a Covenant. (Ex. 24:7). This is the basis of the old Covenant, and another code, written by God on tables of stone. (Deut. 4:13.) "The basis of the New Covenant" (placed in the heart). (Heb. 8:8) . . . Which are You living under? The old Covenant (vs. 'Law') contains the meats, and drinks, and divers washings: carnal ordinances . . . "Imposed on Them until the time of reformation" . . . (Heb 9:10); and nailed to the Cross (Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:14 & 15; Deut. 14) which told Israel what They could eat, and what they could not eat.

The unclean was to be given or sold to the Gentiles, or "aliens." (V. 21 . . . "that He may eat it."

Israel was a separate, and a Holy People "above All People" (V. 1) . . . At that time other people were without hope, and without God in the world. (Eph. 2:11, 12.) According to the Law, they were not to mix seeds in the field; could not mix linen with wool, nor intermingle the cattle. (Lev. 19:19). The Apostle Paul recorded in His writings: "Cursed is

everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the Law to do them." (Gal. 3:10). What about child-bearing? . . . in the same Law? (Lev. 12:1-6). Paul understood the Law was (had been) a "Schoolmaster" to bring Us to Christ (Gal. 3:24). But after it filled its purpose, we are no longer under the "Schoolmaster," but justified by Faith. (V. 25).

"Christ Hath Redeemed Us FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW" . . . being made a curse for us. Why try to force this Law on People? Is it to satisfy a personal theory? That which stood in meats, and drinks (Col. 2:14) . . . and (Heb. 9:10), carnal ordinances. This law was nailed to the cross . . . taking it out of the way: We are no longer under the judgment of the Law; (which power was succeeded by, and subdued by the death of Christ). Paul says: "Why tempt ye God . . . to put a yoke up on the neck of the Disciples . . . which neither Our Fathers nor we were able to bear (Acts 15:10). We believe we will be saved through Jesus Christ, and not by the Law of Moses . . . (verse 11; also V. 5). Emphasizing verse 11: "We believe that through Jesus . . . we shall be saved . . . 'EVEN AS THEY'" . . . Who embodies "They"? Who were under the YOKE. (V. 10).

The Pharisees caused much dissension over this . . . trying to force this old order on the Disciples of Christ, after Paul had been preaching to them the end of the old order under the Law of Moses . . .

to be received, "to them which believe AND KNOW THE TRUTH."

Have we heard of these things TODAY? Now Brethren, there was a time remembered when there was no contention about the so-called unclean meats; certainly not in the Church of God . . . What has happened with God's people? Surely this is a prophecy for the latter times; FOR OUR TIMES. Are you to be counted in company with those that are living under the curse of the Law (old covenant)? "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly in the latter times, that some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits" . . . what is the meaning of seduce? Why not clarify this word: one interpretation says: "to draw into error (or evil); to lead astray (to entice)." The spirit of these things then will be enticing to surrender a truth of righteousness. How could abstaining from eating a certain thing look enticing (appear attractive)? . . . because it tends to make people feel very exclusive, and much more HOLY than their Brethren. This is just "one" of the enticements that appeal to certain ones. What does scripture say these enticements are? (V. 1) (Doctrines of devils.) "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused if received with Thanksgiving." (V. 6). "IF THOU PUT THE BROTHERS IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE THINGS . . . Thou shalt be a good Minister of Jesus Christ; nourished up in the words of faith, and of good doctrine." Yes, in Gen. 1:31 (beginning), God said every-

and a temptation to God. (V. 10).

Peter says, "Some went out from us, subverting your souls: saying ye must be circumcised after the law of Moses, whom we gave no such commandment." (V. 24). He sums up the necessary things, and says in Vs. 28 and 29, "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost to lay no greater burdens than these necessary things on you; That you abstain from meats offered to Idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication; which if ye keep yourselves, ye do well."

This seems conclusive: the unclean was not mentioned in these "necessary things." Since we are not under the law which brought us to Christ, we should see the Lord doesn't want us to consider the clean and unclean. God will attend to the judging . . . You won't have to. (Rom. 14: 1, 2). "He that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations . . . for One believeth he may eat all things, but Another who is weak eateth Herbs; let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not, judge him that eateth." Why? "For God hath received him." (But you are bitter against the one you think eats what you call unclean.) God says He cleansed it. (Acts 10:15) (Rom. 14:10). "Why doth thou judge thy Brother . . . or set at naught thy Brother; for we shall ALL stand before the judgment seat of Christ." So everyone of us shall give an account of himself to God. (V. 12). "Let us not therefore judge one another any-

nor"

In Acts 10:10 Peter went upon the housetop about the dinner hour; where occurred a vision unto him: appearing unto him as a great sheet . . . let down from heaven. It contained ALL MANNER of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things; fowls of the air . . . were these things clean or unclean? Let Peter answer in V. 12-15. A voice told Peter to "rise, kill and eat;" but what did Peter say? "Not so Lord; I have never eaten anything common or unclean." Peter was talking to the Lord; then the voice came again from the Lord, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." This was done three times. These things had been unclean to Peter, for he declared to the Lord it was so. But God answered him once more . . . "That I have cleansed call that not common . . . (unclean)." Do you believe God? Other nations at that time were unclean to the Jew . . . as the meats were to them . . . a type of them. (V. 28). Notice how He said unto them: "You know how it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common, or unclean." Some are so narrow, they will call people unclean if they don't see just like they do. God knows every man's heart. It was just as wrong to eat with Gentiles, at that time, as to eat the unclean meat. (Acts 11:3 and John 4:9). The Jews had no dealings at that

time with other nations; but now, it is neither "bond" nor "free," neither male nor female, but we are All One in Christ Jesus.

If we keep the Law that is "perfect" . . . converting the soul (Psa. 19:7), all are counted as "His," through faith (which is the gift of God.) Yes, we know back under the law, that it was wrong for Israel to eat the unclean meats (but they could give to, or sell, the unclean meats to the Gentiles within their gates) (Deut. 14:21). This law was not given to the Gentiles. When you come to the New Testament you do not find the unclean meats. The Lord makes this plain in Matt. 15:16. Jesus said: "Are ye also without understanding?" He then explains how the things we eat "goeth into the belly and is cast out as draught, but those things which proceed from the heart . . . they defile the man." It is not what you may eat, or drink, but "prepare Me a body" (Heb. 10:4-9).

In place of quibbling over the meats and drinks that have been nailed to the cross, it would be better to be dwelling on the saving of men's souls. (Col. 2:14). This law that brought us to Christ has no more authority over us, but we are now free in Christ . . . living by faith in His perfect sacrifice and grace. "For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continues not in ALL things which are written in the Book of the Law to do THEM." (Gal. 3:10; Deut. 26:28).

Let's not call anything common, or unclean that God has made. When He had created all things, God saw everything "that it was VERY GOOD" (Gen. 1:31). The things that were called unclean must have been there. Certain things were termed unclean, to show a difference between the Israelite and other nations. Peter must have done wrong by withdrawing himself from the Gentiles; as Paul withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James. He did eat with the Gentiles, but when they were come, he withdrew. Why? He feared the Jews and their traditions, just like many people today. (Gal. 2:11, 12). Paul said, "When I saw they walked not uprightly, according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all: If thou being a Jew, liveth after the manner of the Gentiles, and not of the Jews, why compelleth the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" I will tell you the difference. The Gentiles ate the unclean. That is why Peter withdrew from them. (Deut. 14:21). "Give or sell to the Gentile, that he may eat it." The Bible points out, that at that time they wanted to impose on the people that believed on the Lord Jesus the "Law of Moses." And the Apostles and Elders came together to consider of the matter. What did they decide? Peter said, "God made choice among us that the Gentiles might by mouth hear the word of the Gospel, and believe." (Acts 15:5-7). Peter called this law a yoke,