

## **Yielded Bodies**

by Robert G. Lee, D.D.  
Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church  
Memphis, Tennessee

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### **CHAPTER SEVEN**

#### **THE KNEES OF THE HUMAN BODY**

**"Bowing their knees"** (Mark 15:19).

**"I fell upon my knees"** (Ezra 9:5).

**"[Daniel] kneeled upon his knees three times a day"** (Daniel 6:10).

**"[Jesus] kneeled down, and prayed"** (Luke 22:41).

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"** - (Romans 12:1).

The human body has a moral use -- in that it deters from doing evil things. A man's conscience might protect him if his mind impelled him to be a burglar. And a man's reason would restrain him if he had the idea to do murder. But the supreme peril of the burglar would be that he might be seen -- because he would have to take his body wherever he went, and the body might be arrested and put in jail. And the great peril of the burglar would be that he might be found out and his body be "hanged by the neck until dead."

The possession of bodies necessitates conventions:

Bodies must be fed.

Bodies must be clothed.

Bodies must be sheltered.

Bodies must be bathed.

Basic are these demands -- and to meet them men must work. In work for the demands of the body people are brought together -- and their social and individual duties are inevitably blended. Farmers must cultivate farms and harvests be gathered to provide food for bodies. Sheep must be herded and sheared and cotton grown to furnish clothes for bodies. Coal must be mined and forests cut and houses built to furnish comfort for bodies. Community good and civilization's activities hinge upon the fact of bodies.

But the purpose of the body -- "the beautiful, passionate body," as Swinburne expressed it -- of every "moist and unpleasant body," as Dickens writes -- of every strong body, of every weak

body -- is to glorify GOD.

Although we are urged to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto GOD, which is our reasonable service;

Although we are exhorted to refuse to let sin reign in our mortal bodies;

although we are urged to yield the members of our bodies unto GOD as members of righteousness;

although we are told that even when we are "**troubled on every side... perplexed...**

**persecuted... cast down**" we should be "**always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh**" (II

Corinthians 4:6-11). --

In spite of all these considerations, we find many cheat themselves and dishonor GOD by refusing and failing to "**glorify God in the body,**" by failure to make the body a doxology of praise unto GOD "**in whose hand is... the breath**" (Job 12:10).

Some have ears as deaf to the Gospel invitation and the call of GOD's commandments as the bandaged ears of an Egyptian mummy.

Some have eyes as blind to the beauty of CHRIST and to open church doors and to the workings of the adversaries of GOD as have been for centuries the eyes of the Sphinx to all the armies that marched and to all the people who have rested in its shadow.

Some have hands as useless in the services of CHRIST as the armless statue of Venus is useless in bandaging those in battle wounded.

Some have lips as dumb in giving Christian testimony as are the marble lips of a dummy.

Some have minds as unreplenished of Scriptural truth as a dumb doll upon a ventriloquist's knee.

Some have lips -- in this land of freedom of speech -- which seldom form themselves to express gratitude to GOD for His loving kindness and tender mercies.

Some have feet that find their way to GOD's sanctuaries with the frequency of snow storms in Florida.

Some, in a land where service should be rendered, put their shoulders to no wheel and withhold their necks from honorable yokes.

Some have knees that bow to Baal's altar.

And some have knees that bow to GOD. And it is of the knees of the human body that we write.

In the Bible we read of knees that bear,  
of knees that bow,  
of knees smitten,  
of knees diseased,

of knees bowed down,  
of knees slept upon,  
of dangling knees,  
of preventing knees,  
of unbent knees,  
of feeble knees,  
of knees in water,  
of knees smiting together,  
of mocking knees,  
of knees with the face between them.

Of JESUS' knees at which Peter worshiped. And the knees, a part of the body -- the body called "the urn of the soul" -- must be yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

In the Bible to *bow* the knees signifies to worship (Romans 11:4), to pray (Ephesians 3:14), to be in subjection (Philippians 2:10).

Let us notice what the knees -- as we observe the use of them in the Bible -- would teach us.

In the Bible, the knees are used to show how GOD is glorified in

### **RIGHTEOUS REFUSALS**

Elijah, after the great victory on Mount Carmel, went "**unto Horeb the mount of God.**"

**"And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away"** (I Kings 19:8-10).

And the LORD said unto him:

**"Yet have I left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him"** (I Kings 19:18).

Thus many assisted apostasy in bowing the knee to Baal, seven thousand refused to bow their knees and thus glorified GOD.

In Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits, and set it up in the plane of Dura.

**"Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: and whose falleth not down and worshipeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace . . . certain Chaldeans came near, and**

**accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever . . . There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:4-12).**

Joseph refused to bow knee to the god of lust when Potiphar's wife "**cast her eyes upon Joseph."**

**"And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her" (Genesis 39:10).**

Queen Vashti bowed not the knee to unrighteous display of her body.

**"On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, to bring Vashti the queen before the king with crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the King's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him" (Esther 1:10-12).**

And Moses bowed not his knees to accept Egypt's glory and evil:

**"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26).**

How we need righteous knees that will not bow to the law of the social mob in a day when so many do like others because "everybody does it," -- because it's popular to parade in paths where GOD is not acknowledged.

We find in the Bible that knees teach the

### **FEARFULNESS OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS**

This shows the prophet Nahum, "*who had the tongue of a poet, the mind of a patriot, and the heart of a Cain,*" in his exultation over the impending destruction of Nineveh. Those who have accused Nahum of being among the prophets at a peace conference should remember that Nahum, grasping one truth with fierce intensity, shows how GOD, in righteous judgment, punishes violence, vindicates the righteous, and punishes oppressors. Listen to his words:

**"[Ninevah] is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness . . . Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the**

**earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard" (Nahum 2:10, 13)**

In the days of Amos, when the outside of the cup was gold and the inside was tarnished and foul, when people bowed their knees to a strange god, the prophet showed the fearfulness of the judgment of GOD in these words:

**"And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the Lord unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more" (Amos 8:2).**

Daniel was a great man anywhere and everywhere -- at morning, noon, night, and midnight. In courage he faced the cruel eyes and yawning jaws of lions. In courage he turned his face from king to GOD in pagan Babylon. In wisdom he rose high at Nebuchadnezzar's court. In faith he worshiped GOD in his own room. In public he acknowledged GOD. In idolatrous Babylon.

**"Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another . . . In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain" (Daniel 5:1-6, 30).**

Old King Herod never bowed his knees in worship to CHRIST. But listen:

**"And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost" (Acts 12:21-23).**

In the usage of the knees, we read of knees yielded unto Satan as instruments of unrighteousness  
in the

### **MEANNESS OF MOCKERY**

**"Bowing their knees (they) worshipped him" (Mark 15:19).** What mockery! The old philosopher said: "Mockery is often the poverty of wit." Tennyson said: "He never mocks, for mockery is the fun of little hearts."

Concerning what the people did to JESUS and said to JESUS the day of His crucifixion, what meanness of mockery we see!

**"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!"** (Matthew 27:29)

**"And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him"** (Mark 15:19).

Let us give no obedience, -- bend no knee -- to gods of this world lest we be found guilty of mocking Him in worship, in attitudes, in words, in deeds. Let us not be found guilty as one who mocks the LORD, -- "mocks as one whom the fire leads, by the creed-wrought faith of faithless souls that mock their doubts with creeds."

But another truth the knees teach us as we find it in the Bible. This is the

### **HUMANITY OF JESUS**

JESUS kneeled and prayed (Luke 22:41). Thus we see that JESUS, though GOD, felt the need to pray. He knew the wisdom of getting into the private place to talk with his FATHER before He went to the public place to do the work GOD wanted Him to do.

Think of JESUS, before His incarnation on the throne, now on His knees. His birth into this world was a translation at the same time as it was an incarnation. It was a transfer of His person from a previous condition of existence to an earthly one. It was His being clothed upon with our human nature. His incarnation meant, and means, that the pre-existent CHRIST was embodied in human flesh, demonstrated in human life, exemplified in human action, crystallized in human form. Significant indeed the words:

**"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.**

**Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"** (Hebrews 10:5, 9-10).

With the body GOD prepared for Him, JESUS was perfectly human, but a perfect human. As I have written in my book *"Beds of Pearls"* so say I again.

As man, He got tired; as GOD, He said **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28).

As man, He got hungry; as GOD, He fed thousands with a lad's lunch (John 6:9).

As man, He got thirsty; as GOD, He gave living water (John 4:10).

As man, He prayed; as GOD, He made, in praying, no confession of sin.

As man, He was tempted in all points like as we are; as GOD, He was without sin, baffling His enemies with the question, "**Which of you convinceth me of sin?**" (John 8:46).

As man, He slept; as GOD, He arose from sleep and stilled the raging tempest.

As man, He sorrowed over separation from friends; as GOD, He promised never to leave them comfortless, and to come to them (John 14:18).

As man, a ship carried Him; as GOD, He walked on the rolling, tumbling sea (John 6:19).

As man, He accepted a village girl's invitation to her wedding; as GOD He there changed water into wine.

As man, He was despised of men; as GOD, "**all the angels of God worship him**" (Hebrews 1:6).

As a man, He got lonely; as GOD, He said, "**The Father hath not left me alone**" (John 8:29).

As man, He longed for human companionship and sympathy; as GOD, He trod the winepress alone (Isaiah 63:3).

As man, He wept at Lazarus' grave; as GOD, He raised Lazarus from the dead.

As man, He grew in wisdom and stature; as GOD, He upholdeth "**all things by the word of his power**" (Hebrews 1:3).

Thinking of the humanity of JESUS as set forth by His falling upon His knees to pray, we think, as Moyer expresses it, of some wonderful contrasts concerning CHRIST -- His human nature and His divine nature in such holy union.

He who made all things in creation was "**made flesh**" to provide salvation (John 1:14).

He who made man was "**made in the likeness of men**" (Philippians 2:7).

He who was the CREATOR of the angels was "**made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death**" (Hebrews 2:9).

He who made the Law was "**made under the Law**" (Galatians 4:4).

He who was "**clothed with honour and majesty**" (Psalm 104:1) was "**wrapped in swaddling clothes**" (Luke 2:12).

He who is the everlasting FATHER (Isaiah 9:6) became an infant of days.

He who came a BABE (Luke 2:12) will come a KING (Revelation 19:16).

He who upholds "**all things by the word of his power**" (Hebrews 1:3) was upheld in the arms of Mary, and of Simeon (Luke 2:27-28).

He of whom it was stated "**Behold your God!**" (Isaiah 40:9) is the One of whom it was stated "**Behold the Man!**" (John 19:5).

He who "**measured the waters in the hollow of his hand**" (Isaiah 40:12) poured "**water into a basin**" (John 13:5).

He who was "**girded with power**" (Psalm 65:6) "**took a towel, and girded himself**" (John 13:4).

He of whom it is written, "**Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him**" (Daniel 7:10), "**stood before the governor**" (Matthew 27:11).

He who "**knew no sin**" (II Corinthians 5:21), "**did no sin**" (I Peter 2:22), was "**without sin**" (Hebrews 4:15), and in whom was "**no sin**" (I John 3:5) bore "**our sins in his own body on the tree**" (I Peter 2:24).

But, noticing the usage of the word "knee" and the word "knees," we see, as one who sees a glorious landscape through the eye of a needle, the

### **EXALTATION OF JESUS**

JESUS who was once the earth-rejected One is now the Heaven-accepted One.

**"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began"** (Acts 3:20-21).

JESUS who was once crowned with thorns is now crowned with glory and honor.

**"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man"** (Hebrews 2:9).

JESUS who was once on the tree -- "**who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness**" (I Peter 2:24) -- is now on the throne.

**"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Hebrews 12:2).

And this One now on the throne says to us:

**"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne"** (Revelation 3:21).

JESUS who appeared to put away sin (Hebrews 9:26) now appears in the presence of GOD for us.

**"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24).**

JESUS "*once cursed on earth*" is now crowned in Heaven. **"Jesus . . . heaven opened . . . on his head were many crowns"** (Revelation 19:10-12). JESUS who was once the bruised One of earth is now the blessed One in Heaven. JESUS once the one under the wrath of GOD -- now the worshiped one of Heaven.

**"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:10-11).**

The exalted Christ!

**"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11).**

**"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:32-33).**

**"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).**

**"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him: and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).**

Thinking upon CHRIST's glorious person, CHRIST's matchless love, CHRIST's marvelous grace, we should say what Paul said: **"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:14).**

But we must not forget that the usage of the knees in the Bible teach us the

### **PRACTICE OF PRAYER**

**"When Solomon had made an end of praying . . . he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees" (I Kings 8:54).**

**"Elijah... cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees" (I Kings 18:42).**

**"And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God, and said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens"** (Ezra 9:5-6).

**"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime"** (Daniel 6:10).

**"And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep"** (Acts 7:59-60).

**"But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up"** (Acts 9:40).

At Tyre, Paul found some Christians. And of what they did when Paul came unto them, while **"The ship was to unlade her burden,"** we read:

**"And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed"** (Acts 21:3, 5).

**"And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"** (Luke 22:40-42).

**"And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him"** (Mark 14:35).

And JESUS, in teaching as never man taught, said: **"Pray ye."**

We, with our mortal bodies, should see that the life of JESUS as to prayer should be made manifest in the knees of our mortal bodies by our yielding those knees as instruments of righteousness in prayer -- in frequent prayer, in tireless prayer, and by praying without ceasing.

Prayerfulness is the evidence of grace,  
the act of dependence,  
the soul of expression,  
the harbinger of joy,  
the bringer of blessing  
the hand of power,

the killer of sin,  
the road to victory,  
the remover of rust,  
the breath of summer,  
the secret of fruitfulness,  
the soil of love,  
the developer of faith,  
the helper of others,  
and brightener of hope.

Prayer brings us into touch with GOD, and keeps GOD in touch with us.

Prayer is the *delight of the saint, the armor of the soldier, and the supplier of the servant*. He who does not pray well lives ill. Many must be our bendings of knees. Many must be our trips to the prayer closet. Many must be our pleadings. Many must be our forgivings. GOD works when men pray. No spiritual power is existent apart from prayer. Prayer changes things within and without.

With knees kneeling in prayer beside our beds, at our takes, in our offices, in hotel rooms -- in many places -- let us say with Constance Calenberg;

**O LORD,  
I can not bear Thy Cross  
Beyond the city gate;  
Nor ever know, as Simon knew,  
The burden of its weight.**

**I can not lean  
As John, Beloved,  
With reverence on Thy breast;  
Nor walk  
As Peter walked in faith  
Across a billow's crest.**

**I can not work, as Martha worked;  
Nor bring Thee Ointment sweet,  
As Mary  
Broke her costly flask  
Of fragrance  
At Thy feet.**

**I can but look to Thee in prayer, and seek  
Thy SPIRIT's fill -- One gift to give:  
My heart and soul surrendered to Thy will!**

~ end of chapter 7 ~