



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015



# THE BOWL OF PEANUTS

*A Study in the Action of Faith*



## The Players in our Story

- The Slave (You and Me)
- King Cotton (Sin and the Flesh)
- The Boll Weevil (The Effects of Sin)
- Mr. Peanut - the Savior (Jesus Christ)
- The Bowl of Peanuts (Grace)

## The Infamous Boll Weevil

That which is born within the bolls of the cotton plant and ultimately devours it



## King Cotton

Its reign - 1803 to 1937

*Its beautiful bolls,  
And bales of rich value, the Master controls.  
Of "mud-stills" he prates, and would haughtily bring  
The world to acknowledge that "Cotton is King."*

**Abel C. Thomas**

*The Gospel of Slavery - 1864*

# Old King Cotton Had a Dark Side

It Needed Human Slaves to be King

(In 1860, the value of the slaves was) roughly three times greater than the total amount invested in (U.S.) banks . . . equal to about seven times the total value of all currency in circulation in the country, three times the value of the entire livestock population, twelve times the value of the entire U.S. cotton crop and forty-eight times the total expenditure of the federal government that year.

**Steven Deyle**

## To Keep Cotton King, King Cotton Mustn't Lose its Workforce

**1861** - a little boy named Georgie is born into the slavery of King Cotton in Diamond, Missouri

**1863** - President Abraham Lincoln issues an executive order, declaring that "all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free." Georgie is free from King Cotton.

**1863** - Georgie, though free, is two years old and a practical orphan. Moses and Susan Carver adopted Georgie and raised him as their own child, teaching him the basics of reading and writing.

**1863 - 1892** - Georgie grows up as a free man, with a passion to help those under the rule and reign of King Cotton.

## King Cotton and the Freed Slaves

When Cotton is all you know, then Cotton is what you continue to do, even after you have been freed from its control

## King Cotton Has a Blind Spot

It depletes the soil, it takes away, constantly robbing from the nutrients, disabling the ground from actually producing anything good

## King Cotton Has a Weevil

In 1892, The Boll Weevil arrives on Southern plantations, completely undermining the Cotton industry over the next thirty years

## Georgie - The Man With the Plan

Try the Peanut!

### The Peanut

- A plant that enriches the soil, sticks in nutrients instead of stealing them
- A great source of protein - works as a food for people and as a food for animals

### But, There Was a Problem

No one knew what a peanut even was, let alone how to grow one

**1896** - The Peanut isn't even recognized as a crop in the United States

### Oh, And Yet Another Problem

What to do with these piles and piles of unused Peanuts

**1896** - Georgie, now all grown up and known as George Washington Carver, sets out to find the true power of the Peanut

**1896** - George Washington Carver asks the simple question, "Lord, what is your purpose for the peanut?"

### The Answer from Heaven

- Over 300 inventions using the Peanut - from peanut milk, to peanut paper, even to peanut soap
- 105 tasty food recipes using peanuts - from peanut butter, to pancake flour, to peanut brittle, to instant coffee, to mayonnaise, to chicken substitute, to peanut sausage, to butterscotch, to cheese pimento, to sweet pickle
- And about 100 products specifically designed to help around the house and farm - including such things as cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline, and nitroglycerin.

### The Bait of Cotton vs. The Brilliance of Peanuts

# The Bait of Self-Effort vs. The Brilliance of God-Effort

## The Biblical Idea of Grace

But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and **His grace** which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

## The Biblical Idea of Grace (Peanut-Style)

But *because of the Bowl of Peanuts* I am what I am: and *His power-packed protein peanuts which He made available to me on the coffee table* was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but *the peanut protein which was working in me.*

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

## The Biblical Idea of Grace

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, **let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear:

**Hebrews 12:28**

## The Biblical Idea of Grace (Peanut-Style)

Wherefore we receiving a *Bowl of Peanuts which cannot be moved from the coffee table*, let take and eat these *power-packed protein-rich peanuts*, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

**Hebrews 12:28**

## Introducing the Bottomless Bowl of Peanuts

So many of them that it would be impossible to count ‘em

## Possible Titles for this Section

- The Functionality of Faith
- The Work of Believing
- How Does Faith Work?
- How Does One Escape the Wicked effects of the Boll Weevil and access the Protein-rich benefits of the Peanut Life?

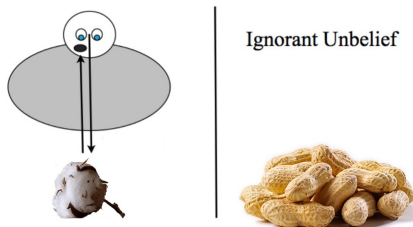
## Five Modern Options for Peanut Harvesting

NOTE: The Bowl of Peanuts is filled to the brim and available to all who would simply take ‘em

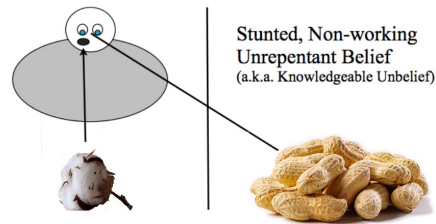
1. Go out and try planting peanuts yourself
2. Go in and stare, from across the room, at the renowned “Peanut Bowl” and maybe proximity will equate to protein impartation
3. Sing songs of Peanut saving grandeur
4. Memorize the recipe for making peanut butter, join a peanut butter quiz team, and earn a ribbon for your vast knowledge
5. Sniff the bowl and maybe the distinct peanut aroma will transfer the peanuts’ incredible virtue and power into your digestive system

## So, How Does One Go From “Cotton Mouth” to “Peanut Breath”?

### #1 - Cotton Mouth



## #2 - Um, Still Cotton Mouth



## #3 - Ah, Peanut Breath



## The Confusion Over Works

**For by grace are you saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works,** lest any man should boast.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath **faith**, and have not **works**? can **faith** save him? . . . Even so **faith**, if it hath not **works**, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast **faith**, and I have **works**: show me thy **faith** without thy **works**, and I will show thee my **faith** by my **works** . . . But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith** without **works** is dead? . . . Seest thou how **faith** wrought with his **works**, and by **works** was **faith** made perfect? . . . Ye see then how that by **works** a man is justified, and not by **faith** only . . . For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without **works** is dead also.

**James 2:14, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 26**



## Two Works

1. **Work of Law** - Leaning on Adam's ability and efforts to save (a.k.a. the Flesh)

*Going into the fields and trying to get peanut protein out of cotton farming*

2. **Work of Faith** - Leaning on Jesus' ability and efforts to save (a.k.a. the Spirit)

*Going to the Peanut Bowl, reaching in, and gripping peanuts,  
cracking 'em open, sticking tasty protein-rich peanuts into your mouth,  
chewing, swallowing, and digesting this saving goodness*

## Saving Faith

### How Does Faith Work?

when Faith goes to work, how does it function? *It Believes.*

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, **that you believe** on Him whom He hath sent.

**John 6:29**

### Faith and Believe - what's the difference?

**Faith** is the noun (Pistis) - *the Operation*

while **Believe** is the verb (Pisteuō) - *the Action*

### To Have Pistis (faith) and not Pisteuō (and not do the action of faith) is Ridiculous

- It's like having eyes and not opening them to see
- It's like having a tongue, but not using it to speak

- It's like having ears, but not listening with them
- It's like having money, but not using it to pay your bills
- It's like having a big bowl of peanuts in front of you and not sticking your hand in the bowl, grabbing them, cracking them open, and sticking their protein-rich power in your mouth and chewing

. . . **faith**, if it has not **works**, is dead, being alone.

**James 2:17**

For everyone to whom much is given,  
from him much will be required . . .

**Luke 12:48**

For everyone to whom (Pistis) is given,  
from him (Pisteuō) will be required . . .

**Luke 12:48**

For everyone to whom (eyes are) given,  
from him (seeing) will be required . . .

**Luke 12:48**

For everyone to whom (a bowl of peanuts) is given,  
from him (grabbing peanuts, cracking open peanuts,  
eating peanuts, and digesting peanut power) will be required . . .

**Luke 12:48**

## To Believe - *the art of Christian “doing”*

1. Knowing
2. Reckoning
3. Presenting
4. Exerting
5. Obeying

## The Knowing

**Know ye not**, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? . . . **Knowing this**, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin . . . **Knowing that** Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him . . . **Know ye not**, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

**Romans 6:3,6,9,16**

*Know you not that when you came to Christ, you became part of the Family of Christ? . . . Know you not that all those that are in this house have access to the Bowl of Peanuts on the coffee table in the middle of the house? . . . Know you not that as many as take from the Bowl of Peanuts, that they receive the protein power of the Peanuts? . . . Know you not that the Bowl of Peanuts has been set there in the center of your living room just for you? Look closely, your name is written on the Bowl . . . Know you not that he that doesn't reach for Peanuts does not receive the benefits of the Peanuts?*

## The Reckoning

. . . **Reckon** ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,  
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 6:11**

*Reckon you also a member of the Peanut Farmer's Family - a recipient of the peanut power - no longer under the control of King Cotton, and that there is, therefore, no hindrance and no hand-slapping when you boldly approach the Bowl of Grace. The Bowl's answer is "Yes" and "Amen" to those who are inside the house and those that reach out towards it in faith.*

## The Presenting

**Neither yield** ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield** yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace . . . I speak after the manner of men because of the

infirmity of your flesh: for **as ye have yielded** your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; **even so now yield** your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

**Romans 6:12-14,19**

*Do not yield to “Cotton Mouth” again, but yield your hand to the purpose of gripping peanuts, cracking them open, and popping them into your mouth. Yield your mouth to the purpose of chewing peanuts. Yield your throat to the purpose of swallowing them. And yield your digestive track to the purpose of gaining all the protein richness out of them.*

## The Exerting

**Let not** sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

**Romans 6:12**

*Grab the Peanut. Do it. Crack the peanut open. Do it. Throw those little peanut gems into your mouth. Do it. Chew the peanut gems. Do it. Swallow the peanuts. Do it. Digest the peanuts. Do it.*

## The Obeying

But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but **you have obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness.

**Romans 6:17-18**

*The Peanut Power is Yours! Walk forward now in confidence knowing that you have all necessary protein strength for the battles that lie just up ahead.*

## The Bowl of Peanuts

## 1. It is Bottomless and Sufficient

And He said unto me, *My grace is sufficient for thee . . .*

2 Corinthians 12:9

## 2. It is Perfectly Suited to Meeting Our Every Need

If you need food, milk, paper, soap, cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline, nitroglycerin, rubbing oil, emulsion for Bronchitis, Quinine, Laxatives, Hand lotion, face cream, shampoo, shaving cream, insecticide, rubber, linoleum, insulating boards, and a hundred more things beside - you've got it all in the Peanut.

## We Have Only Just Begun to See the Possibilities of the Peanut Bowl

At present not a great deal has been done to utilize Dr. Carver's discoveries commercially.

He says that he is merely scratching the surface of scientific investigations of the possibilities of the peanut and other Southern products.

**Raleigh H. Merritt, 1929**

## No Matter Your Need, God's Solution Has Already Been Given

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness . . .

**2 Peter 1:3**