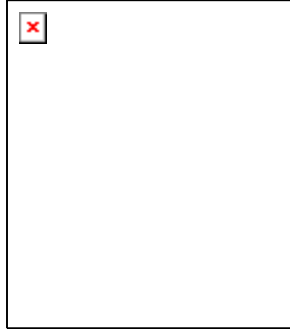


[Q&A](#)

[Archives](#)

# ***THE CAMBRIAN PESHER***

*THE VOICE OF THE DESPOSYNI TO THE AMERICAN DISPERSION*



St. David's Day, 2003 (March 1)

*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

- James 4:6

Brethren:

I am taking the opportunity in this Peshier to announce the on-line publication of an abridged edition of a book that should be released soon, entitled: [\*The Ordinance of Footwashing: The Kingdom Come\*](#). For those who have followed my writings over the years, you will recognize it as the title of a series of articles published during the late 1980s in *The Family Spokesman*, a magazine I have dreams of someday reviving. I cannot overstate the importance of this religious rite.

Since New Testament times, the Church has suffered from divisions - all caused by pride. We might say many divisions result from misunderstandings. But misunderstandings are usually unresolved because of impatience and the source of impatience is pride.

In our home these past weeks, we have been revisiting the Pauline Epistles during our devotions. Currently, we are in First Corinthians, and there we find the Apostle Paul contending with the sin of schism. And where did he find the source of schism? Pride.

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 KJV

Paul judged the Corinthians as unworthy of the esoteric tradition because of their worldly pride. So it is true of today. The Church is divided into thousands of sects, each with a different authority or a different interpretation of the Scriptures. How can this problem be remedied?

Unfortunately, many people do not believe division is a problem. It is endemic among Protestants to believe that division preserves the purity of the Church. But the godly are always reluctant Separatists; for the Apostle commands us with a sacred charge:

*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

- 1:10

Thus, the true Church will always seek unity and peace among the brethren. That is why there must be open discourse between denominations, including cults and heresies, because we are commanded to be one. It may be that our blind pride has prevented us from seeing a valid doctrine which a cult group may be advocating. Weeds have their purpose. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?", was the prejudice of Nathanael when called by Philip to meet Jesus. How many such prejudices afflict the Church today? Fill in the blank. "Can any good thing come from the \_\_\_\_\_?" (the Mormons?, the Moonies?, the Pentecostals?, etc.). Mutual excommunications are not the way of Christ.[\[1\]](#)

It might be that such groups entertain serious contradictions with the Word of God. We are commanded to instruct with patience (1 Timothy 2:24). In recent years the Wiccan religion has come to public recognition as an accepted religious sect. Conservative Christians are horrified. As usual, their reaction takes the form of public protest and fascist initiatives. They never stop to consider why anyone would be interested in Wicca. Many years ago, when I did my research for a book on the occult, I found the driving force of such neo-pagan groups in the disaffection among its members for traditional Christianity. Many of them were once from conservative Christian churches. I wondered why it was so?

In general, I found that the Church was defective in its doctrine and practice. It was starving the sheep and they were wandering to other pastures. Whether it was Augustine's demented view of sex, or an exclusively masculine God, or the rejection of spiritual gifts, or any number of other distortions - the Church's unwillingness to embrace the full counsel of God shriveled its breasts.

### **Footwashing: The Neglected Ceremony**

There are some minor sects which practice, on occasion, a strange ceremony called "footwashing". The tradition of Maundy Thursday is retained by some mainline churches (such as the Anglican). It is a commemoration of a ceremony Christ instituted among His disciples in John 13, the night of His betrayal. In that ceremony, Christ disrobed, girded Himself with a towel, and like the humblest servant girl, washed the feet of His disciples.

Of course, His disciples were horrified. Such an act was beneath the dignity of the great Messiah of Israel. Jesus had to threaten Peter with excommunication before he was willing to submit. It was so completely out of order for this proud fisherman.

It is still out of order for the proud churchmen of today. And because of that, our churches are filled with a complacent self-righteousness and a disgraceful haughtiness.

My [book](#) argues the case that footwashing needs to be rejoined with the observance of Communion as an ordinance and sacrament. Unless Christians can remedy the pride and divisions among themselves, they will never be privileged to understand the mysteries and inherit the Dominion Covenant.[\[2\]](#) Like the Israelites of old, they will continue to wander around Mt. Sinai in a perpetual and fitful infancy.

## **St. David: Patron Saint of Wales**[\[3\]](#)

Although I have written on St. David in a previous Peshier, I wanted to offer this reminder that the Celtic church is a Desposynic church and St. David stands within that sacred lineage. The founder of important monasteries among the Cymry, he is revered as the fount of missions from which the works of later saints - such as Finnian and Columba - are indebted. Rarely is a river followed to its source. The mighty Mississippi is accepted as a given feature of the American continent. Yet few consider that this great river begins as a small stream in northern Minnesota. Yes, it receives strength from its tributaries, but its identity begins at its headwaters.

So it was with the Celtic church. While it gathered strength from the Catholic fathers, its identity lay with its Desposynic roots. The truth about the Arimathean mission and the mysterious St. Ildid may be lost in the mists of time, but whoever they were, and whatever it was that they taught, still tenaciously clings to the Celtic soul.[\[4\]](#) The doctrine of humility is an example. Our Lord was a carpenter. His brethren were farmers and tradesmen. So, too, the Celtic fathers taught manual labor as a spiritual discipline. Footwashing was retained in the liturgy, as well, even while it was forgotten among the rest of Christianity. With the coming of the Protestant Reformation, there was hope that the life of the primitive Church would be restored. After five centuries, we are still waiting. Perhaps it is because we have failed to incorporate important Biblical customs into the life of the Church - among them being that of Footwashing.

A Servant of Jesus,

James

### **Hymn for the Church in Wales**

*Far back in distant ages, by  
God's most loving Will, The  
Church in Wales was  
planted, the Church that lives  
there still;*

*The Church that Jesus  
purchased, that, being all His  
own, He might present it  
spotless before the Father's  
throne.*

*Her Sacramental Blessings,  
her never-changing Creed,  
Are Gifts to her from Jesus,  
Who owns her His indeed,*

*Who hath, through God the  
Spirit, true Source of Life  
Divine, Preserved her Holy  
Orders in yet unbroken line.*

*The Church fights on  
undaunted, for Christ her  
Living Head Of His own  
mystic Body hath words of  
promise said,*

*How 'gainst its Rock  
Foundation all power of evil  
fails, And on that Rock of  
Ages is built the Church in  
Wales.*

*Stand firm then fellow  
Churchmen; we are not left  
alone, The Christ Who died  
to save us is watching from  
His Throne,*

*And as He pleads unceasing  
His Sacrifice above, We make  
the same great Offering in  
Eucharists of Love.*

*In union with His pleading  
for ever doth arise, A stream  
of Intercession from those in  
Paradise*

*Who, since the Gospel  
message first reached our*

*shores of old, Have lived and  
died for Jesus within the  
Church's Fold.*

*So worshipping the Father,  
the Spirit, and the Son,  
Unswerving faith confessing  
in God the Three in One,*

*The Church on earth still  
fighting, the Church at rest  
above, Is ever safely guarded  
by God's eternal love.*

*Amen*

**Footnotes:**

[1] The henchmen among us love to cite passages like Titus 3:10 to justify a culture of excommunication. Notice carefully what is said here. It is the heretic who demands an *immediate* decision on his new-found doctrine who is the schismatic, not the spiritual body that allows him a platform to teach. On the other hand, the Separatists of the Reformation were usually forbidden the opportunity to teach within the churches and were excommunicated. Their aim was not to cause division but rather reformation. They were the victims of schism, the schismatics being the professed Catholics. The greatness of the Catholic institution has been its ability to absorb many perspectives. It failed during the time of the Reformation.

[2] The reader is invited to consider enrolling as a [Catechumen](#) in the Grail Church where these mysteries are taught.

[3] St. David lived during the 6th Century when the Celtic Church retreated before the pagan Saxons into what is now Wales. A founder of several important monasteries, he journeyed to Jerusalem to receive his consecration from the Patriarch there, rather than at Rome. Known in the Welsh tongue as "Dewi", he was a kinsman and contemporary of Arthur and is said to be buried at Glastonbury. He was instrumental in finishing the work of Patrick in Ireland through the missionaries, such as Finnian, sent from his monasteries. See Andrew Gray's, *The Origin and Early History of Christianity in Britain*, available from our [booklist](#)

[4] St. Ilid was an Israelite who came with Aristobolus, who was one of the Seventy and listed by Hippolytus as the founding bishop of Britain. Ilid is reputed to have founded Llan-Ilid - one of the three primary missions to Britian by the New Testament Church - and to have intermarried with the royal House of Silures. Who he was in relation to the New Testament record remains a mystery.

[Footwashing](#)

[archives](#)

[menu](#)

[James, the First Bishop of Jerusalem](#)

[doctrine](#)

[booklist](#)