



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 499-5677

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

January 29th, 2006

Only One Way!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

You go to your church and I'll go to mine. We're going to the same place, only on different roads. This statement is made by many people who mistakenly believe there are many ways to God in heaven. However, the truth of the matter is, there is only one way to God, and Jesus said it is strait and narrow (Matt. 7:13-14). Christ declared, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6). In Acts 4:12, speaking of Christ, Peter said, Neither is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Therefore, it is necessary to conclude that the only way to God is through Christ.

Being saved and brought to God is a spiritual blessing. Paul said, all spiritual blessings are in Christ, (Eph. 1:3). Moreover, Paul wrote of Christ stating that it is in Him whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of his grace, (Eph. 1:7). Hence, all spiritual blessings and redemption . . . according to his grace are in Christ. Please notice these passages: Redemption is found in Christ (Rom. 3:24); There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ (Rom. 8:1); The love of God is found in Christ (Rom. 8:39). We are sanctified in Christ (1 Cor. 1:2); In Christ will all be made alive (1 Cor. 15:22); We are new creatures in Christ (2 Cor.

5:17); Gal. 6:15); We are reconciled back to God being in Christ (Isa. 59:12; 2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:13); We are all children of God by being in Christ (Gal. 3:26-27); All blessings are found in Christ (Eph. 1:3); We are made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6); The grace of God is found in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10); Eternal life is found in Christ (Rom. 6:23). It should be obvious to all that one has to be in Christ to gain these wonderful benefits. But, how does one get into Christ?

One should be aware of the difference between unto and into as used in the English. Unto means going in the direction of or toward. Into signifies that the destination has been reached, entered.

Without faith it is impossible for one to please God (Heb. 11:6) and be saved (Mark 16:16). However, a person must understand that he does not believe into Christ. Belief is unto, going in the direction of Christ. Paul uses the unto with belief in Romans 10:10 saying, For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. No Scripture says one believes into Christ.

If one will not repent of his sins, he will perish (Luke 13:3-5). Yet, it must be understood that repentance on the part of an individual is another act unto or toward God. As a matter of fact,

Paul is recorded as saying that both faith and repentance are acts which are toward rather than into. Paul testified both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, (Acts 20:21). No Scripture says one repents into Christ.

Confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), is absolutely essential for salvation (Matt. 10:32-33). But again, confession is unto salvation. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:10). No Scripture says one confesses into Christ.

Faith, repentance, and confession are unto but do not place one into Christ. Just as there is only one way to God (that is through Christ), there is only one way into Christ, in whom all spiritual blessings are found. Faith, repentance, and confession are essential for one entering into Christ, but one does not enter into Christ by any one of them or by all three of them together.

The only way revealed in the Bible for one to get into Christ is by being baptized in water (Acts 8:36), in the name of Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), washing them away (Acts 22:16). Roman 6:3 finds Paul stating, Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. In Galatians 3:27 Paul wrote, for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. When one believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repents of his sins, and has confessed Christ with his mouth, he is only then ready to be baptized into Christ!

"An Imperiled Society?"

Larry Ray Hafley

So inquired a headline in the Houston Chronicle (November 14, 1996, p. 18A). "Sam Nunn and William Bennett . . . teamed up . . . to launch a commission to study what they say are social pathologies that imperil society.

"Nunn, a . . . Democrat, and Bennett, a leading Republican voice on moral issues said they are alarmed by signs of a nation succumbing to drug

abuse, crime, pornography, and family breakups, among other problems."

.. America is the most powerful and affluent and enviable nation in the world,' Bennett said. . . . 'It is also true that America leads the world in rates of murder, violent crime, juvenile crime, divorce, abortion, children born out of wedlock and consumption of cocaine and other drugs. Something is wrong.'

Bennett and Nunn want a panel to find out "why so many social institutions — schools, churches, families — have seemingly fallen into disrepair." Sadly, "They said they saw no obvious remedies" for the problems that imperil our nation.

Yes, "Something Is Wrong"

Surface problems have been identified. The signs and symptoms of the diseases that are eroding our society have been labeled. Too often, "panels" and "commissions" attack the surface, the signs, the symptoms. They do not reach the core, the base, the heart of the malady that is destroying America.

The central malignancy that ails us is that of the heart. "Out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). An itinerant carpenter and preacher once said that "those things which proceed out of mouth come forth from the heart: and they defile the man. For out of the heart," he said, "proceed" all the infirmities that corrupt individuals, undermine society, and threaten the nation (Matt. 15:18, 19). It is only after the heart is taught and trained that any disease can be treated and defeated.

As the heart is the root of man, so the hearth and home are the soul of society. For too long, the twin towers of heart and home have been indwelt by soulless spirits of unbridled lust and undisciplined "freedom."

As the heart is the root of man, so the hearth and home are the soul of society. For too long, the twin towers of heart and home have been indwelt by soulless spirits of unbridled lust and undisciplined "freedom." Indeed, "freedom" has been the cloak under which lust has satisfied and gratified its sensual self. But, as it was true three thousand years ago, so it is true today, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Fed, fat flesh, and starved, emaciated spirits encourage lust and endanger liberty.

Romans 1:21-32 and 2 Timothy 3:1-8 chronicle the elements besieging and besetting our nation. Nunn, Bennett, and their panel would do well to seek the wisdom that dealt with that wickedness. God is the doctor. His word is the remedy. Until men and nations turn to it, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

It is sheer folly to decry the evils jeopardizing society on the one hand while government legalizes, funds, and promotes them with the other. In part, our society and government condones and encourages abortion, condoms available at school, easy divorce, protection of the "rights" of pornographers to publish and peddle their product, restraints against the use of discipline, no condemnation of one's sexual behavior, whether promiscuous fornication or perverted homosexuality, in the name of "privacy." Yet, unless I am totally mistaken, these things are at the center of the social pathologies (and behaviors) that imperil society" Nunn, Bennett, and their commission need to address this in-consistent feeding of the very things they say are destroying us.

As long as commissions and panels ignore the wisdom of God, and as long as they endorse government policies supporting that which they admit is imperiling society, I, like Nunn and Bennett, see "no obvious remedies" in sight.

Guardian of Truth XLI: 3 p. 7
February 6, 1997