



The Voice Of Truth

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THE WORD OF GOD

Jimmy Pettigrew

Seldom ever in the age of man has the word of God occupied its rightful and supreme position in the affairs of life. Mankind has failed to appreciate and respect the Bible as God's absolute and final will for man.

America's foundations are in serious decay this very hour due to the lack of respect for the Word of God. God's Word states that lives are DESTROYED when we depart from the Word of God (Prov. 13:13).

THE BIBLE ALONE has answers to our problems. We certainly need to return to God's Word for moral purity and holiness. "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him" (Prov. 30:5). There is a standard of behavior that God expects men to follow, and it is in this WORD!

God's Word is man's light and lamp (Psa. 119:105). It is man's hope against sin (Psa. 119:11). God's Word is the truth whereby man may be freed from sin (Jn. 8:32; Rom. 6:17-

18). The Word of God alone is all we need (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

God's Word sanctifies, cleanses, and it gives understanding (John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; Psa. 119:130). God's Word has the power to produce a new life and godliness's. 1:18; 2 Pet. 1:3-4).

God's Word is QUICK, LIVING AND POWERFUL (Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29), and it will judge us (Jn. 12:48). We need to return to the righteous standards set forth in the Word of God!

THINK! THINK! THINK!

Most people believe in life after death, and the majority of these believe that they are destined to enjoy the pleasures of heaven. There is, however, something that should worry those people. Hebrews 9:27 declares, "**It is appointed unto men once to die, but**

after this the judgment." Voltaire, the noted French atheist, spent his life lecturing and writing about his disbelief in the Almighty, yet is quoted as saying with his final breath, "Oh, God, if there is a God, have pity on my soul, if I have a soul, " The term "**judgment**" as introduced in the scripture means that there is going to be a dividing of one group of people from the other. It is easy to decide that one group pleases God while the other does not please Him. Therefore, those who please are separated from those who do not.

THE PIG AND THE COW

"Why is it," the rich man asked his minister, "that people call me stingy, when everyone knows that when I die I'm leaving everything to this church?" "Let me tell you the story of the pig and the cow," answered the minister. "The pig was unpopular, and the cow was beloved." "People speak warmly of your gentle nature and your soulful eyes," the pig said to the cow. "They think you're generous because each day you give them milk and cream. But what about me? I give them everything I have. I give bacon and ham. I provide bristles for brushes. They even pickle my feet! Yet, no one likes me. Why is that?" "Well," the cow answered, "perhaps it's because there's a difference - I give while I'm still living."

THE ONE BODY

Jimmy Pettigrew

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (Eph. 3:6). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (Eph. 2:16). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (Acts 20:28), the one in which He is the Saviour of (Eph. 5:23).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (Rom. 16:16), then he is not saved.