

The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the
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April 27th, 2008

God's People

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Although these exact words are not found in the scriptures, the thought of this is surely taught. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). And Isaiah wrote, "Even every one that is called by my name: For I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:7).

When a person lives as the Lord wants him to live, he is living for Christ (Philippians 1:21). A life that is supremely devoted to the service of Christ, consecrated to Christ, and used for the advancement of the cause of Christ, this is a life of a child of God. In the book of Titus, Paul tells us things concerning God's people.

1. **God's people are purchased people.** Our Christ "gave himself for us" (Titus 2:14). We are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Lord's blood shed on Calvary was the purchase price paid for the church (Acts 20:28). Therefore, God's people are to do all things to the glory of God!
2. **God's people are pure people (Titus 2:12, 14).** They must be pure in mind (Matthew 5:8); pure in speech (Proverbs 4:23); pure in doctrine (2 John 9); pure in worship (John 4:24).
3. **God's people are zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).** The Lord wants His people to be doing the works of God (Titus 3:1, 8, 14). We must zealously and constantly work for the salvation of men everywhere (Galatians 6:10). God expects us to be doers of the word and not hearers only (James 1:23-25). Let us "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:27).

We are God's people. Let us live in full understanding of this blessing.

The Preacher Hasn't Called

Quite often you hear someone say, "Our preacher never stops to visit in our homes." If this is true, you probably have much for which to thank God. It usually means that death has not struck; that no serious illness has laid low members of your family; that you are not a shut-in; or the surgeons knife has not treated you or that you have no serious family problems to solve, or that you are not really a spiritual delinquent child of God.

As a rule, preachers do not make "social calls" for they do not have the time. They would enjoy doing so, as much as you would like to have them, but there are simply not enough hours in the day.

But, be sure of this: A GOSPEL PREACHER IS WILLING TO COME AT ANY HOUR OF THE DAY OR NIGHT THAT YOU CALL HIM FOR HELP.

Thank God you haven't needed him. Some day you will . . . and he will be there!

With Such, No, Not To Eat

By Jimmy Pettigrew

“But as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no, not to eat” (1 Corinthians 5:11).

In the first part of this chapter, Paul deals with the problem of incest in the congregation, and urged purity in the church. “It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one (of you) hath his father's wife” (1 Corinthians 5:1). The Corinthians had done nothing about it. Paul commands them “to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Corinthians 5:5).

In verse 9 and 10, he told them not to keep company with fornicators, but stressed that this applied to those in the church not to those outside! He was not speaking about men of the world, because the only way to avoid all association with them would to be “. . . go out of the world” (1 Corinthians 5:10). This in itself rules out consideration of the Lord's Supper. Paul was speaking of eating at the table, keeping company with fornicators in the church. But notice also this included other sins along with fornication! The covetous, extortioners, idolaters, railers, and drunkards these also are listed in the same catalogue!

If members in the church are guilty of living this way, then loyal saints are not to keep company with them! Don't invite them to eat, play games in your homes! Don't let the world see you condoning such lives in Christ's church! You cannot eat, or play with one in the church who is withdrawn guilty of such sins. It's just that simple.

**People hardly ever lose their religion by a blowout;
Usually it is just a slow leak.**

**Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and He will give you a
Crown in the life to come.**

**A person who easily accomplishes all that was planned did not
Plan enough.**

Rivers (and men) get crooked by following the line of least resistance.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17