



The Voice of Truth



September 6, 2009

"The Law Was Lost"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

In **2 Kings 22** and **2 Chronicles 34**, King Josiah discovered the book of the law. He gathered the people together and "Read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of Jehovah" (**2 Chronicles 34:30**). The King made a promise to keep all of God's commandments. The law of the Lord was lost but now found in the temple.

A much needed lesson today is for men to realize that the law of God can be REDISCOVERED but not REVISED! God's laws have long been settled (**Psalms 119:89**). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass way" (**Matthew 24:35**). "...The scripture cannot be broken" (**John 10:35**). Thus, man does not have the God-given liberty to tamper with them (**Revelation 22:18-19**).

The law of God is currently lost in many churches of Christ. How?

1) Mechanical instruments of music are allowed in the worship of the living God. IT IS NOT AUTHORIZED in worship taught in the New Testament (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). You will note that the action commanded is "SINGING". Not only is it specified as singing, but the things accomplished by the singing are named. The instrument can never "TEACH," "ADMONISH," or "SPEAK". In our worship we should strive to please God, not ourselves. And that means worshipping as He directs.

2) By accepting Denominational baptism. It is impossible for one to hear another gospel; the words of God mingled with the doctrines of men, and of it obtain the one faith (**Ephesians 4:5**). Baptism is for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Paul was commanded to wash away his sins by submitting to baptism (**Acts 22:16**); that gets one into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**); that gets one into the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:13**), which is the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**), the one church

(**Ephesians 4:4**), where we are reconciled back to God (**Ephesians 2:16**), where Christ is the head and the Savior (**Ephesians 5:23**). "If one is taught error on a dozen matters, and yet that religious group baptizes for the remission of sins, is the person, 'added to the Lord's church' at the same time he takes up membership in the particular denomination he's joining?" Related to this is the fact that in the preaching of the gospel, things of the kingdom are to be proclaimed (**Acts 8:12**). But, if one is taught a dozen errors regarding the kingdom, is his baptism somehow still proper in the sight of God? I THINK NOT! You cannot be taught incorrectly and baptized correctly. Nor can you do something for the wrong reason and get the right results.

3) Saying denominations have New Testament Christians within their ranks and should be fellowshipped. First division has always been condemned by God. The very word DENOMINATION means a named or designated division. But this is in direct conflict with Jesus' prayer (**John 17:22**). Unity was God's aim and His desire. Likewise, denominationalism is in direct conflict with Paul's statement to the church of Christ in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 1:10**). Here is a passage that says denominations are not even to exist. The Bible clearly reveals that division is condemned by the Judge of this universe.

False doctrine is also condemned by God (**Romans 16:17-18**). John also spoke the words of God when he warned us that, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (**2 John 9**)

-11). Division is condemned, false doctrine is condemned, those that teach these false doctrines are to be rejected (**Titus 3:10-11**) and not fellow-shipped (**Ephesians 5:11**). So where does this leave the "Denominations"? I think the answer is plain to all.

The churches which practice and believe these things and many other far off ideas have lost the "LAW"!

The One Body By 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.

"Changing Popular Misconceptions" By Jarrod Jacobs

Someone once said, "There is no task more difficult than that of changing a popular misconception." This is certainly a true statement. Humans are so geared toward routines, that when someone comes along and challenges what has been universally

accepted, most people tend to continue in what they are doing. This is because it is easier to continue what you are doing (right or wrong) than it is to change. Truly, "there is no task more difficult than that of changing a popular misconception."

The Birthday Of Christ

Consider for a moment the popular misconception that Jesus was born on December 25th. This is almost universally accepted by many "religious" people. Why is this? Because it is a popular misconception in our society. The birthday of Christ has been ascribed to every month in the year over the past 2000 years. Still, no one knows when it was. Some may rationalize that it is "fun" or some kind of "spiritual" act to celebrate the birthday of Christ. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are many misconceptions associated with this event:

1) That Christ was born on December 25th. Based on Luke's account, it is more likely that Jesus was born during the spring or summer months (**Lk. 2:8**).

2) That the shepherds followed a star in order to find the baby. This is also not true. The sign they looked for was a "*babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger*" (**Lk. 2:12**). The wise men only followed the star (**Matt. 2:2**).

3) That the wise men visited and worshipped Christ on the day of His birth, and that there were three of them. We do not know the number of men there, nor could we begin to know their names. The wise men first came to Jerusalem (**Matt. 2:1**), and when they could not find Him, went to Bethlehem (**Matt. 2:4-5**). As a result, Herod decreed that all baby boys up to age two be put to death (**Matt. 2:16**). Why do this if the wise men came the night of the Lord's birth? Herod, as well as the others, would know that any two-year-old boy would be too old! **Matthew 2:11** says the wise men came "*into the house*." Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were not in the stable as they were when the shepherds came (**Lk. 2:15-16**). By the time the wise men arrived, Joseph and Mary had Jesus circumcised, had been to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice, been blessed by Simeon

and Anna, and now had returned to Bethlehem (Lk. 2:21-38).

4) Another misconception lies in the belief that Jesus ever wanted men to celebrate His birth. Throughout the New Testament, continued emphasis is placed upon His death, not His birth! When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, it was to "*shew the Lord's DEATH till he come*" (I Cor. 11:26). If Jesus had died of old age, His birth would have meant nothing. It was the fact that He died that sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of mankind that gives His birth meaning. We are to remember his death through baptism (Rom. 6:3-4), through our partaking of the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-28), and in our preaching (I Cor. 15:1-2). We live for Christ because He died for us (II Cor. 5:14-15). This is what needs to be emphasized in our society, and not His supposed birthday.

All Churches Are Alike

This is another misconception among many. Some have the misconception that as long as one is a part of some kind of "church" then they are pleasing in the sight of God. I have heard more than one preacher on TV speak in high tones of "diversity" and how each church gives the Lord's church a unique flavor. Maybe they like their spiritual poison with a "flavor," but I do not want it in any form!

When the Lord talked about churches, He spoke of only one -- His church! He promised to build His church in **Matthew 16:18**. When the gospel was preached on Pentecost, those who responded to the gospel were baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:36-41**). The Lord then added these people to His church (**Acts 2:47**).

When the apostle wrote about the Lord's church, he said, "*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.... the church is subject unto Christ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such*

thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (**Eph. 5:23-27**). Notice the singular nature of the Lord's church. He died for and established only ONE! Paul compares Christ and the church to a husband and wife. Now, if one says that Jesus is pleased with, and has established many churches, then could we not also say that a man has the right to multiple wives? If not, why not?

In other places, Christ and the church are compared to a man's head and his body (**Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 1:22-23**). There is only one body (**Eph. 4:4**), and only one head (**Col. 1:18**). To say that Christ is head over a multiplicity of churches is akin to saying that one head can control multiple bodies! Have we seen anyone that had their head attached to two or more bodies? Ridiculous, isn't it?

Now, which church did Christ establish, did He die for, and is one day coming to receive? It is the church of Christ (**Rom. 16:16**). The church which belongs to Him! Seeing that this is true, let us not be fooled by the popular misconceptions in our day, but follow the truth, God's word, that tells us which church is pleasing in God's sight (**Jn. 17:17**).

God Will Save All Who Are "Good."

In other words, so long as one is morally pure, and adheres to the laws of the land, most people think such a one will go to Heaven. This is not true. In the Bible, there was someone who was a moral, upright man in the community. Yet, God looked upon him as being lost. In fact, not only did God consider him a lost man; but he also realized that he was lost! (A rare thing these days.) This man was Cornelius.

Cornelius was described as a "*devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway*" (**Acts 10:2**). Yet, in spite of his goodness to the community, his being a devout (reverent, pious, godly) man, God told him to send for Peter. The reason: "*He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do*" (**Acts 10:6**). Cornelius needed to know what to do to be saved, and Peter was going to tell him. When Peter arrived, Cornelius

was told, "In every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (**Acts 10:35**). Cornelius was told "the word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all)" (**Acts 10:36**). Cornelius was taught that Jesus died on the cross, was buried and arose the third day (**Acts 10:38-40**). He was taught the necessity of believing in Christ as the son of God, and was commanded to be baptized (**Acts 10:48**).

Cornelius and his household (**Acts 10:24, 33**) consented, and after doing these things, they were saved. Peter at no time told him that he was secure in his present condition. Morality alone will not save. It takes the shed blood of Christ to save men (**Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5**). One is cleansed by the blood of Christ when he is baptized for the remission of sins, having believed on Christ as the Son of God, repented of his sins, and confessed Him before men (**Acts 22:16, 2:38; Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32; I Pet. 3:21; Rom. 6:3-5, 16-18**). This is what it takes! Regardless of what the people of this world might or might not say, let us follow the Lord's will. Let us be found changing our attitudes for the better that we might be found pleasing in the sight of God!

Misconceptions Concerning Sin

There are many misconceptions about sin today that must be changed. Some seem to think that: **1)** It is not sin as long as no one knows it. **2)** It is not sin if everyone else is doing it. **3)** It is not sin as long as it is "legal." **4)** It is not sin if you know someone who does "worse." **5)** It is not sin as long as no one gets hurt. **6)** It is not sin if it is "fun."

Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. Sin is a transgression of the law (**I Jn. 3:4**). Even if no man sees us, God has seen our deeds (**Prov. 15:3**). Just because man legalizes sin does not justify it (**Acts 5:29**)!

Unfortunately, we have a generation of people who are confused about this. Sin is a terrible, horrible thing which will ultimately send one to an eternity in Hell if they are not forgiven by God. Regardless of man's idea of our sin, God sees all sin the same, and sin in our lives will spiritually destroy us (**Rom. 6:23**). Therefore, it is our responsibility to turn to God and follow His word before it is too late (**II Cor. 6:2; Acts 22:16**). **Let us not being misled by the false doctrines and opinions of men! Let us follow God's will alone!**

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God Has a Right Author unknown

God has a right to a definite part of your time
— He has the power to take all of it.
God has a right to a definite part of your money
— He has the power to take all of it.
God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
— He has the power to take all of it.
God has a right to be honored through your influence
— He has the power to take all of it.
God has a right to your life
— He has the power to take all of it.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; 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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

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

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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