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praise of men more than the praise of God" (Jn. 12:43). Could this be describing us, too? I hope not. Jesus said that those who did things merely to be seen of men had their reward (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16).

I remember one occasion where, after some had heard Christ, "they were filled with madness" (Lk. 6:11). Why were they "filled with madness"? Had Christ said something slanderous toward them? Had He used derogatory speech toward them? No! Read **Luke 6:6-11** and see that all Christ did was heal a man's withered right hand on the sabbath. Friends, we need to understand that when we speak as Christ spoke and do what He did (I Pet. 2:21-22; I Jn. 2:6; Jn. 13:15), it will result in the same response He got (Jn. 15:18-20)! When was the last time we evoked this type of response? We need to understand that the truth, when it is preached as it should, will not help us win

friends with the world (Jas. 4:4)! It will, however, help us win Heaven!

The preaching of the gospel such as our Lord did, demanded that men make a decision. They had to choose between righteousness and unrighteousness. They could not "ride the fence" (Matt. 12:30). Does the preaching we hear today demand that men make a decision? Are we stressing this with friends and loved ones as we talk with them from time to time? Do our family and friends know that they need to decide where they are going to stand?

Yes, like brother Whiteside, I too fear for the man who tries to be better or more gentlemanly than Jesus was. I fear for this man because it is he that will ultimately lead people away from Christ instead of toward Him! Let us not be guilty of such things, but stand rock-solid upon the will of God, proclaim it as Christ did, and let the chips fall where they may. Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

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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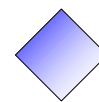


Schedule of Assembly

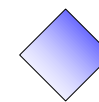
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



May 16, 2010

Shall Only Those in the Church of Christ Be in Heaven?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

This is a question that is asked of the members of the church of Christ from time to time. I feel the best way in answering this question is with some questions. Jesus did this often when He was confronted with scribes and elders. Notice one example in **Mark 11:27-33**: "And they come again to Jerusalem; and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders; and they said unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? or who gave thee this authority to do these things? And Jesus said unto them, I will ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men? answer me. And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; He will say, Why then did ye not believe him? But should we say, From men — they feared the people: for all verily held John to be a prophet. And they answered Jesus and say, We know not. And Jesus saith unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things." So, let us use the same tactic that Christ used in answering this question with some questions.

Do you believe there is one God? Where did you get your answer? There is not but one place that anyone can go to answer this question: **THE BIBLE!** Notice these passages: "The Mighty One, God, Jehovah, the Mighty One, God, Jehovah, he knoweth; and Israel he shall know: if it be in rebellion, or if in trespass against Jehovah (save thou us not this day,);" "The Mighty One, God, Jehovah, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof"; "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?"; "Yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him"; "For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, (himself) man, Christ Jesus"; "One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all" (**Joshua 22:22; Psalms 50:1; Malachi 2:10; I Corin-**

thians 8:6; I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 4:6). After analyzing these passages there is only **ONE ANSWER**. Yes, there is one God, the Father. Now, tell me how did we achieve this answer? It is clear that the answer came from God's word, the Bible. Why would you teach that there is one God? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right! Let look at some more questions.

Is there one Spirit? Yes, there is one Spirit. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14**). Why would you teach that there is one Spirit? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right!

Is there one faith? Yes, there is one faith. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:5; Jude 3; Galatians 1:6-9**). Why would you teach that there is one faith? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right!

Is there one Lord? Yes, there is one Lord. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Ephesians 4:5; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46; Acts 2:36; Romans 10:12; Colossians 3:17**). Why would you teach that there is one Lord? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right!

Is there one body? Yes, there is one body. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24**). How many bodies are mentioned in these passages? **ONE**. Since the body is the church and there is only one body, how many churches are there? **ONE**. Once again how did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures.

Is there only one way to be saved? Yes, there is only one way to be saved. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the Bible, (**John 14:6; 6:44-45; Acts 4:12**).

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Why would you teach that there is only one way of salvation? You would respond, "Because the Bible says so." Right! The Bible teaches that there is only one way of salvation. You might ask, "What is this one way of salvation?" Well, where will we find the answer to this question? Again, from God's word. What then does the word of God say about what one must do to be saved?

- a. One must hear God's word (**Romans 10:17; Acts 2:37**).
- b. One must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (**John 8:24; Mark 16:16**).
- c. One must repent of his/her sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**).
- d. One must confess that Jesus is the Christ (**Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10**).
- e. One must be baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21**).

Now, if you have not done the things mentioned above for salvation, are you saved? **NO!** Why? You would respond because the Bible says you must do the things mentioned above to be saved. Right!

Will only the saved be in heaven? Yes, only does who are obedient to the will of Christ will be saved. How did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures, (**Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46**).

Those who are in Christ, will they be in heaven? Yes,

"Better Than Jesus" By Jarrod Jacobs

Brother R.L. Whiteside (1869-1951) once said, "I fear for the man that tries to be better, or more gentlemanly than (Jesus) was!" (Reflections, p. 468) Yes, back in the days of brother Whiteside, there were some trying to be more gentlemanly than Jesus. What is meant by this? It means that some during the days of brother Whiteside were modifying the gospel message through their actions and words to please the majority of the population. How was this accomplished? It was accomplished when people "held back" from pressing the truth for fear of rejection, or for fear of making someone mad. This was accomplished through what some have called "accentuating the positive, and eliminating the negative." In other words, some men refused to preach the distinctive gospel message for fear that people might think them "too harsh".

only those in Christ will be in heaven. How did you arrive to that conclusion? From the Bible (**Romans 8:1; 1 John 5:11; Revelation 14:13**). The Bible teaches one must be in Christ where salvation is found (**Acts 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:10**).

How does one get into Christ? By being baptized into Christ. How did you arrive to that conclusion? From the scriptures (**Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27**). The same act that puts one into Christ (baptism) puts one in the body which is the church. Wait, how did you arrive at that conclusion? From the scriptures, "*For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body*" (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). Okay, we are baptized into Christ, and this also puts us in the one body, the church. Now, is Jesus the savior of the one body the church? Yes! "*Christ also is the head of the church, (being) himself the saviour of the body*" (**Ephesians 5:23**).

Seeing that those who are in Christ are those in the one body which is the one church, in which Jesus is the saviour of, would you say one must be a member of the church to go to heaven? **YES!** "Shall only those in the church of Christ be in heaven?" **YES!**

Just because one obeys the gospel and becomes a part of the church does not mean he will automatically go to heaven. One must be faithful to the end (**Revelation 2:10**). For one to have a chance to go to heaven, one must be a member of the church which Jesus purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**); one must be a member of the church of Christ! •

Brethren and friends, this goes on today! Some have the idea that when we identify sin, whether in the pulpit, on the printed page, or through personal contact, etc., all we accomplish is making people mad and running them off. Is this true? Of course, not! While much of our society scoffs at the idea of sin, the answer is not to cater to them, but to show people that sin is as real as it ever was, and it will do spiritual damage, and lead to death (**Jas. 1:14-15; Rom. 6:23**).

When some suggest we "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative", we must ask, "Is this what Jesus did?" I remember on one occasion, Jesus called certain people "sick" and "sinners" while in Matthew's house

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(**Matt. 9:12; Lk. 5:31-32**). On another occasion, He called some a "*faithless and perverse generation*" (**Lk. 9:41**). Further, we find Jesus offending people with His words (**Matt. 15:12**). He told the prominent people that they were in need of salvation just like everyone else (**Jn. 3; Lk. 19:9-10; Matt. 23:33**).

Could we say that our Lord was one to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative"? Not if we will be honest with the text! He told the people some very "negative" things because they stood opposed to God. Was He "harsh" when He called some "*blind leaders of the blind*" (**Matt. 15:14**)? Was He unloving toward men when, after many left Him, He asked His disciples "*will ye also go away*" (**Jn. 6:66-67**)?

Christ did not apologize, nor try to "ease" or "lessen" the power of the gospel by not telling all the truth. Why should we be any different (**I Pet. 2:21**)? Are we better than Christ? Have we developed a better method for converting lost souls than what our Lord used? I am afraid that too many of us are spending more time trying to "sneak" the gospel past people instead of just speaking the truth "*with all boldness*" (**Acts 4:29**).

Does this mean we must be speak ugly, or in a belittling manner, or possess an "I-am-better-than-you" attitude, etc.? By no means! We can speak the truth of God's word boldly, and plainly (**II Cor. 3:12**), and people still realize we are doing it humbly, motivated by love for their souls. (See: **I Thess. 2:2, 6-7**) It was done in Old Testament times, in the days of Christ, in the days of the apostles, and it is still being practiced by men today! People will appreciate your candor and straight-forward speech when they know you're doing it out of love for them. Some may think that they "love" someone too much to be plain with them. If this is my attitude, then I don't really love them as I claim. Solomon said, "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful*" (**Prov. 27:6**).

We have some brethren, unfortunately, who think, or at least leave the impression that they think, that one cannot speak the truth, and come down hard against error without belittling others. This is just not true! However, this idea is popular. As a result, we do not hear the distinctive message of the gospel being preached and proclaimed as it once was. Many times, we can visit a gospel meeting, and hear a sermon that could be presented in any denominational building in town! There are times when

brethren can hear a preacher preach, and hear perhaps one or two Scriptures, referred to, but no real exegesis taking place. Instead, the focus has shifted to personal experiences, stories, jokes, and the like. How tragic, since we know only through preaching the gospel will folks be saved (**Rom. 1:16**)! Yet, this shift is the result of thinking that we have a better way, or that we can be more gentlemanly than Christ.

What is the fruit of such things? The fruit is seen in those who have no interest in sound gospel preaching. They have become like the people Timothy was warned about in **II Timothy 4:3-4**. Again, the fruit is seen in those who see little or no difference between the Lord's people and denominational people. It is seen in those who think that there are Christians in every church, even to the point of thinking that there are saved people in religions who do not even acknowledge Christ as anything but a good man or a prophet (Ex: Hindu, Islam, etc.). The fruit of such things is also seen in the lack of modesty in our dress (**I Tim. 2:9-10**), the worldliness in our attitudes (**I Pet. 1:15-16**), and in the words that we speak (**Ecc. 5:2; Eph. 5:4**).

Sometimes people say, "You'll attract more flies with honey than vinegar." Well, in some people's effort to "attract flies", (Whatever happened to saving souls?) we "attracted" many other things we never counted on. Included in this are people who have been shielded from learning "*all the counsel of God*" (**Acts 20:27**) because certain ones determined that this was "too offensive to the visitors."

Further, we see Christ making pointed applications toward those who heard Him. The chief priests and Pharisees understood when He spoke of them (**Matt. 21:45**). On far too many occasions, we find men today who are not making applications when preaching or teaching. In other words, after many sermons, people have no idea that what was said was meant for them. How will people ever understand unless they know "*thou art the man*"? Do we know a better way of teaching and spreading the gospel than Christ's method?

I am afraid that for many, the spreading of the gospel has taken a back seat to popularity. This applies not only to the located preacher, but also to the members of the local congregation. If we're not careful, we will begin to cherish the praise, friendship, smiles, and sweet feelings of men more than the respect and praise of God Almighty. John said there were some in Christ's day who "*loved the*

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