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relevance but only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live.

the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization, they are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with all the world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us. *Credit: www.padfield.com* ♦

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in

Caring About the Truth
By Jonathan L. Perz

It never ceases to amaze me how little people care about the truth today! Whether it is in the form of a political lie, an e-mail that is nothing more than an urban legend, some new money making fad or craze or the telling of "little white lies" ... men have little or no esteem for the truth.

Until a person comes to terms with his attitude about the truth, he will never learn to appreciate the power of God (Rom. 1:16) and the importance of Jesus in his life (John 14:6). Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) long enough will inevitably exchange it entirely for a lie and fall prey to much of the depravity that exists in this world (Rom. 1:25). Many have simply turned their ears away from the truth and have embraced the fables of men (2 Tim. 4:4). Those who do not obey the truth are self-seeking (Rom. 2:8), unloving (1 Cor. 13:7) and often deluded (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

Knowing that Satan is the father of all lies and that most of the world remains in sway of the wicked one, this should not come as a surprise (John 8:44; John 5:19). Nevertheless, the impact of such a general indifference to truth upon the lives of men is monumental.

It is fortunate for mankind that God cares for us and, in His longsuffering, desires that we all are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). It all begins with our attitude toward the truth. Therefore, let us simply open our hearts to the truth and purify our souls by obeying it (1 Pet. 1:22-23). *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

God's word is truth (John 17:17)! We can have absolute confidence in it! Yet it remains meaningless to one who is not genuinely interested in truth. Like some of the Jews in Jesus' day, it cannot help them, it cannot save them and it cannot reach them, because they do not want to hear it (John 4:45-47).

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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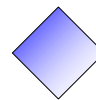


Schedule of Assembly

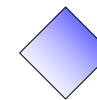
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



May 9, 2010

Doing What God Says
By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Lord gave Noah specific instructions concerning the material of which he was to build the ark. "Make thee an ark of gopher wood", the Almighty enjoined. In specifying gopher wood, the Lord automatically excluded every other kind of wood. If there were varieties of gopher, as there are of oak, for example, he could have used any or all of these that were suitable for his purpose. But Noah could not use, without bringing the condemnation of God upon himself, any wood other than gopher. A modern "intellectual" among us has ridiculed the idea of God's condemning Noah if he had used a "little cedar" in the ark. Such ridicule betrays a woeful lack of knowledge of the Bible, or of respect for the Bible, or both.

is recorded of Noah that "According to all that God commanded him, so did he". Evidently, Noah had a better idea of what is obedience to God than some moderns. The same principle in Noah's obedience to God's command is involved in our relation to God's will now.

Nadab and Abihu, when they came to burn incense before Jehovah, "used strange" fire which he had not commanded; that is, they did not use fire from off the altar (Num. 16:46). We do not know where they obtained the fire they used. We know at least one place where they did not get it - from off the altar. They may well have rationalized: "Really, what difference does it make where we get the fire; fire is fire; it will burn regardless of where we get it. Why be tradition-bound and narrow? Why not be broad and scholarly? The main object is to burn the incense; and fire from any place will do that". Yes, they tried "strange fire; and fire from Jehovah devoured them" (Lev. 10:2). This example does not suggest that God would have done nothing to Noah by way of punishment if he had used some other kind of wood than gopher in building the ark. It

For example, we are commanded to "sing" in the worship of God (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:10; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15). God did not say, "Make music". If He had, then instrumental music would have been acceptable. He specified singing. He did not say, "Make vocal music". If He had, then there would have been some ground for "whistling" and "humming" in the worship of the Lord. But since inspiration has specified "singing", "whistling" and "humming" have no more place in the worship than cedar wood in the ark; or "strange fire" in the burning of incense.

We should be satisfied with what God has commanded. It is true that the nations around us whistle and hum; but that is no reason why we should. Israel wanted a king to be like her neighbors; but that desire brought disaster.

"Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition" (1 Cor. 10:11). "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). Will we profit by what was written aforetime? ♦

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

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Pages 2 to 3 - "The Remnant" **Page 4** - Caring About the Truth

“The Remnant” By Jarrod Jacobs

The Bible word “remnant” means, “rest, residue, ... remainder” ([Brown-Driver-Briggs](#), p. 984). When reading the Bible, we find that the word “remnant” is used quite frequently. At times, the word “remnant” was used to describe an amount of material left over after making the curtains for the Tabernacle, or what was left over after offering a sacrifice ([Ex. 26:12](#); [Lev. 2:3, 5:13](#)). At other times, we find the word “remnant” referring to people. Moses and Joshua talked about Og and “*the remnant of the giants*” ([Deut. 3:11](#); [Josh. 12:4, 13:12](#)). Our focus in this article, however, is to see how the word “remnant” is used in describing the people of God.

God’s People Are Always Described As A “Remnant.”

Yes, God called His people a “*remnant*” on several occasions ([Isa. 10:20-22, 37:4](#); [Jer. 23:3](#); [Joel 2:32](#); [Amos 5:15](#); [Micah 2:12, 4:7, 5:7-8](#); [Zeph. 2:7, 9, 3:13](#); [Zech. 8:12](#); [Rom. 9:27, 11:5](#)). In what way(s) did God consider His people a remnant? First, when describing those who would survive the Babylonian captivity, He called the survivors the “*remnant*” ([Amos 5:15](#); [Micah 2:12](#)). These were the people who remained after the Babylonian captivity to return to their homes and rebuild and repair what had been destroyed so they could start anew (See: Ezra, Nehemiah).

When referring to spiritual Israel, this term “remnant” was also used ([Isa. 10:20-22](#); [Joel 2:32](#); [Micah 5:7-8](#); [Zeph. 3:13](#); [Rom. 9:24-27](#)). In this case, it is applied to those who remained faithful to God in the face of earthly persecution and pressure placed upon them to leave the Lord. God’s spiritual people are not the greatest in number, but the fewest ([Deut. 7:7](#))! When He was on earth, Christ said that the many are headed for destruction, while the few are headed toward eternal life ([Matt. 7:13-14](#)). Luke records that there was a question preceding this where Christ was asked, “*Lord, are there few that be saved?*” ([Lk. 13:23-24](#)). Obviously, someone was listening to Christ ([Lk. 13:22](#)), and saw the connection between Christ’s teaching and what most people were doing. That God’s spiritual people are the remnant, or the few, is a truth seen time and again in the Scriptures.

When thinking about the few or the remnant, remember Noah? In his day, “*few, that is, eight souls were saved by water*” ([1 Pet. 3:20](#)). Though there were vast multitudes following Christ, there came a time when “*many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him*” ([Jn.](#)

[6:66](#)). To those who “remained” (see def.), specifically, to the twelve, Jesus asked, “*Will ye also go away?*” ([Jn. 6:67](#)). This question elicited one of the greatest responses ever ([Jn. 6:68](#))! Further, in New Testament times, we find that being a Christian was something the few did — not the many! We see this as God’s people were looked upon as a “sect” in [Acts 24:5](#) (A sect is a “body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets ... a suggestion of reproach,” [Thayer’s](#), p. 16).

Today, it is no different. Though many describe themselves as “Christians,” there are few who truly are Christians as God describes. Why do I say this? There are a number of reasons. One reason is that some claim to be “Christians,” but have not submitted to the Lord’s plan for salvation ([Mk. 16:16](#)). Many today have the mistaken idea that if you believe in God, are reasonably good, and don’t get into a lot of legal trouble, then you must be a Christian. This is not right. Too, some claim to be “Christians” while belonging to a denomination. They have been fooled. It takes more than mere religious affiliation to be a Christian in the eyes of God. Based upon this, we know that the majority of those claiming to be Christians are not so. This means God’s people are the remnant, the few, just as He had said long ago!

What Does Being The “Remnant” Teach Us?

By God referring to His people as a “remnant,” what does this tell us? This teaches us that not everyone will accept the Lord’s plan of salvation. Unfortunately, some today teach a doctrine contradictory to Scripture called “universalism”. This doctrine says that all people on earth will be saved by our all-loving God. This is simply not true. If it were, for one thing, there would be no sense in referring to God’s spiritual people as a “*remnant*,” for all would be saved, and there would be none lost. Further, the term “remnant” teaches us that not everyone is pleasing in the sight of God. The “remnant” pleases Him, but not everyone does! Therefore, I need to learn what pleases Him, and obey ([Matt. 7:21](#); [Rev. 22:14](#)). We read of a “*remnant*” in [Romans 11:5](#), who are likened to the “*remnant*” (7000) in Elijah’s day ([Rom. 11:4](#); [1 Kings 19:18](#)). What made these 7000 stand out? They had not “*bowed the knee to the image of Baal*.” In other words, they continued to be faithful to God. The apostle Paul then says, “*Even so then at this present time also there is a*

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remnant according to the election of grace.” Are you among the “remnant”?

Conclusion

Just as in Bible days, there is also now a remnant of God’s people. It is those who willingly submit to the will of

God in all things! If we refuse to “bow the knee” to the various gods of this world; if we turn and lovingly obey the Father; we can be a part of this “remnant” as well. Let us not allow anything to stand between us and being right in the sight of God. Today is the day of salvation ([II Cor. 6:2](#)). Friend, are you among God’s remnant? Are you a Christian ([Acts 11:26](#))? If not, what is stopping you from doing so? What is hindering you ([Acts 8:36](#))?

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Simply Christians By Gene Taylor

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that "Christianity" is not relevant today. We believe they have made that decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God's word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New ([Jer. 31:31-33](#); [Gal. 3:19, 23-24](#)). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ there existed no denominational organizations whatever. All began at a later time. In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God's grace. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, the church ([Acts 2:36-47](#)). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders ([Acts 14:23](#)) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock ([Acts 20:17, 28](#); [1 Pet. 5:1-3](#)). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven,

where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is ([Eph. 1:22-23](#)).

Their worship was something in which to participate, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's supper and hear preaching ([Acts 20:7](#); [1 Cor. 11:23-29](#)), they would all sing ([Eph. 5:19](#)), they would all pray with various ones leading ([1 Cor. 14:15-16](#)), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity ([1 Cor. 16:1-2](#)). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts ([2 Cor. 9:6-7](#)). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest ([Rev. 1:5-6](#)). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time ([Col. 1:23](#)). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians ([Acts 11:26](#); [Acts 26:28](#); [1 Pet. 4:16](#)). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony, rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him contrite obedience ([2 Sam. 15:22](#)). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God's power to save ([Rom. 1:16](#)), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, "Oh, if only such could be today." But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor

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