

The Final Judgment By David Padfield

- All of the nations of the earth who have ever lived will be present (**Matt. 25:32**)
- The Word of God will be the standard of judgment – not the creed books written by men (**John 12:48**)
- We will be judged on the basis of our deeds and not just our attitude (**Rom. 2:6**)
- No "warning signs" will be given prior to the return of Christ (**Matt. 24:36**)
- Christ will return at an unexpected time, during normal circumstances upon the earth (**2 Pet. 3:10**)
- When Christ returns "every eye shall see Him," not just the redeemed (**Rev. 1:7**)
- For some, it will be a day of unspeakable joy (**Rev. 21:1-4**)
- For others, it will be a day of horror (**2 Thes. 1:6-8**)
- When Christ returns He will deliver the kingdom back to His Father (**1 Cor. 15:24**)
- There is no passage in the Bible which states Christ will ever set foot on this earth again – the Bible teaches that we will "meet the Lord in the air" (**1 Thes. 4:17**)
- Once Christ receives His own they will "always" be with Him, not just for a 1,000 years as some teach (**1 Thes. 4:17**)
- While we wait for the Lord to return we have the opportunity to repent (**2 Pet. 3:10**)
- There is no second chance for men to repent after death (**Heb. 9:27**)
- Take comfort in the thought of His return (**1 Thes. 4:18**)

Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

SUPPOSE - JUST SUPPOSE

Yes, just suppose that next Sunday Jesus stood at the end of the pew where you sit as you were about to place your offering in the collection plate, and just suppose that instead of the collection plate, he held out his hand, the hand that was nailed to the cross for you. Would you be willing to place your offering in that nail pierced hand?

Could you look upon that face stained with blood from the thorn pricked brow; see the body that was beaten and placed upon the cross, could you do this, look him in the eye and say, "Lord I'm giving all I can"?

Suppose as you looked upon Jesus, with the torn hands and feet, the beaten body, the pierced side and head crowned with thorns, he said to you, **This is how I showed my love to love.** ♦

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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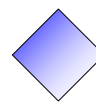


Schedule of Assembly

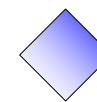
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



October 9, 2011

"Saul's Conversion" By Jimmy Pettigrew

The conversion of Saul is one of the truly remarkable events set forth so ably by Luke the beloved physician in the book of Acts. Jesus made an appearance to Saul on his way to Damascus to bring back Christians bound to Jerusalem (**Acts 9:1-2**). Then "And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And he (said), I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: but rise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (**Acts 9:3-6**).

Some have obtained the idea that Saul was saved in a manner different than other cases of gospel conversion. **NOT SO!** Saul was saved precisely as were others in the book of Acts. God has but **ONE** plan of redemption, and compare it with Saul's conversion.

First, God's Word teaches that one must hear the Word of God. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Rom. 10:17**). Saul **HEARD**. The Bible says, "And he fell to the earth and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (**Acts 9:4**). Again, he heard the instructions of Ananias, "and now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**). "For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard" (**Acts 22:15**). There is no doubt but that he heard the Word of the Lord!

Second, the scriptures teach that one must believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believed not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (**John 8:24**). Saul **BELIEVED**. This is evidenced by the fact he asked the Lord what he must do in **Acts 9:6** and **22:10**. An unbeliever would not care what the Lord wanted him to do. Saul's belief is further witnessed in the fact that he did what the Lord told him to do about entering the city and awaiting further instruc-

tions on how to be saved. Saul's faith is seen by the fact he willingly did what Ananias told him to do relative to his being baptized.

Third, the Bible teaches one must repent. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (**Luke 13:3**). Saul **REPENTED**. His repentance is strongly implied in **Acts 9:9**, "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink." He did not manifest behavior of a man reported by many to have already been saved. He was filled with remorse; the awful crime of fighting against God and Christ was pressing upon his soul. This is the reason for his total abstinence from food and drink. Also, we must remember that Ananias would not immerse an impenitent man, for the great commission demanded repentance prior to baptism (**Luke 24:47**).

Fourth, the New Testament teaches one must confess his faith in Jesus Christ. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (**Matt. 10:32-33**). Also read **Acts 8:36-37**. Saul **CONFESSED**. He confessed his faith in Jesus Christ when he said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? . . ." (**Acts 9:6; 22:10**). Later Paul (Saul) wrote "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." He surely confessed the Deity of Jesus Christ.

Fifth, the last, the Bible teaches one must be immersed. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." (**Mark 16:16**). "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (**John 3:5**). ". . . even baptism doth also now save us . . ." (**1 Pet. 3:20-21**). Saul was **IMMERSED**. "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**). He "arose,

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and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).

of redemption for all people. In the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, we see what man must do in order to be saved. ♦

We can see from this study that God has but ONE plan

"Think Like God Thinks"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In Romans 12:1-2, the apostle Paul wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." In this article, I want us to study the phrase "the renewing of your mind." The word "renewing" means, "renewal, renovation, complete change for the better" (Thayer's, p. 38). Please notice the contrast made between God and the world in this text. It is obvious that to be like God is better than being like the world. If we are not going to conform to this world in its thoughts, actions, etc., we need to think like God thinks!

How Can I Think Like God Thinks?

Let's answer this question by asking: How can anyone think like another? Thinking as someone else demands first that that person's thoughts be revealed! Thus, if we are to think like God thinks, we must know what He is thinking. How can this happen? Is this even possible? Paul writes to the Corinthians about this very subject and says, "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:8-13). Therefore, Romans 12:1-2 was not telling us to do something that we cannot do. God has revealed His mind to men through His Spirit.

Where Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Now that we know the Holy Spirit has revealed God's thoughts to men, where are they revealed? Is God's will revealed in such a way that is "better felt than told?" Does the Spirit speak personally to every person on earth so God's will is known? Has He hidden it in some obscure place that will take men a lifetime to find? The answer to these questions is "no," but unfortunately, it may take some a lifetime to find the Bible. See, the Bible reveals the thoughts of God to man. Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (I Pet. 4:11). The word "oracles" means, "the utterances." Therefore, every time we read and speak from God's word, we are reading and speaking the revealed thoughts of God to men. Isn't that amazing! God loved us enough to give us His thoughts, and when we study and read His word (II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:4), we can think like God thinks! What other book, man, or group of men could give you that?

Why Were God's Thoughts Revealed?

Have you ever wondered why God would spend so much time and expend such effort in giving us a book by which to live? Why were His thoughts revealed? Was there a reason we need to know who God is? Let us let the Bible answer the question "why." In John 20:29-31, we read, "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." God's thoughts were written so we might believe. Why believe? It is because through faith we obey God's word and can be saved (Rom. 10:13-17; Heb. 11:6, 5:8-9; etc.). God's thoughts revealed man's sin, his need for a Savior, and the way to be saved (Rom. 3:23; Rev. 3:20; Mk. 16:16).

How Were His Thoughts Revealed?

We have discussed the "where", and "why". Now, how

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did the Holy Spirit reveal God's thoughts? The method used for revelation is revealed for us in the Bible as well. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1-2). Peter says something similar to that in II Peter 1:20-21. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." These passages reveal that God spoke to the fathers for a time. These men were "moved" (inspired) by the Holy Ghost to say the things they did (I Cor. 2). Jesus was also sent to reveal God's thoughts to man (Jn. 12:49-50). After God's thoughts were revealed to man, they were written down for future generations to receive the spiritual benefit (Ex. 34:27; Jn. 20:30-31; Eph. 3:3-5; etc.). Thus today we have the written word so that we might think like God thinks (Rom. 12:1-2)!

How Can We Understand the Bible Correctly?

By Kevin A. Sulc

The fact that there are so many different interpretations of various scriptures is a major source of division among "Bible believers." Why is this? An increasingly popular answer and "solution" is the notion that most of what the Bible teaches (AKA doctrine) is not really important anyway and so it doesn't matter. Everyone should just "agree to disagree."

This popular philosophy is a superficial solution because it only ignores the problem. This then creates another problem when it comes to Bible study: people don't. If it doesn't really matter, then why bother? The result is a divided and ignorant religion. Hardly a solution. Furthermore, Jesus Himself said that we cannot separate doing God's will from knowing concerning the doctrine (read John 7:17).

We have dealt with this question several times over the last two years in this paper (the publication that this was originally printed in, jlp). We have done so because it is one of those basic problems which must be solved if TRUE Christianity is to be found and practiced. Again we point out that blame for this problem cannot be placed on the Bible for it was written to be understood (read Ephesians 3:1-6). Nor can we rest in ignorance for to acknowledge that the Bible is the Spirit-inspired Word of God is to admit the necessity for all of us to become students of it. "For as

What Does This Mean For Those In Religious Error?

When one decides that he is going to think like God thinks, he will stand opposed to religious error. Therefore, Satan has lost a soldier. When we think like God thinks, we will no longer be "tolerant" of those that are impenitent in sin. We would rather teach the truth and have folks not like us, than to have a friend that goes to Hell because of our inaction (II Tim. 2:2). Thinking like God thinks will make us realize that we need to be doing all that God has said. We cannot "pick and choose" our obedience and hope to go to Heaven (Ecc. 12:13-14; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:14).

Conclusion

Have you renewed your mind? Have you decided you want to think like God thinks? Your only other option is to think like the world. Which will it be? (Matt. 6:24, 16:26).

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many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

Of course many today who read such passages say, "See, Bible understanding is not important, all you need is for the Spirit to lead you!" Do they know how the Spirit leads us? God has not left us to our own assumptions.

Paul, in the same letter in which he affirmed that we have to read what he wrote to understand the mystery of Christ, says the following: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,...and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ...taking ...the sword of the Spirit, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD" (read Ephesians 6:10-17).

Knowing then that Bible knowledge is essential, we are back to our question, worded in a positive way, "How can I correctly interpret the Bible?" Our method of Bible study and the tools we use to aid our study are no doubt among the areas which need to be addressed. But our attitude perhaps more greatly affects our understanding of God's word than anything else. This is clearly demonstrated in the scriptures. Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦