

Continued from Page Three, "What Is Truth?"

We must not give aid to any false teacher (2 John 9-11).

Truth Will Judge

In the resurrection day, you will not be judged by what your mother believed, what your father taught you or by

what everyone else was doing at the time. You will be judged by the words of Christ (John 12:48). What you know about the truth and your reaction to it will determine what He will say to you on that final day. If we can be of assistance to you in your search for the truth, please contact us. If you do have a Bible, we would be happy to provide you with one. Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

**Truth
Author unknown**

One thing that is absolutely indispensable to the practice of pure religion is truth. "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Whatever truth may cost (time, money, lands, houses, or physical suffering), it is worth the price; and once obtained, it must not be sold at any price.

It matters little what we think, feel, imagine, suppose, or would like to believe; the truth is what counts. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, bold, and convincing; but he lacked the one thing which all must have to be successful in preaching—the whole truth (Acts 18:24-28). Eloquence is not necessary if one has the truth; other things may be helpful, but are not essential.

To disregard, neglect, reject, or deny the truth is to dispense with the indispensable. ♦

Can You Imagine?

1. Paul saying: "You don't have to obey the gospel to be saved?" Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
2. Paul saying: "We are sprinkled with him in baptism?" Read Romans 6:4.
3. Jude saying: "I don't think it is right to argue the scriptures?" Read Jude 3.

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

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

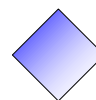


Schedule of Assembly

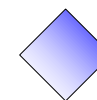
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



December 11, 2011

"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 (Psalm 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 fellowshiped. 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 fellowshiped (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"! ♦

In This Issue...

Page 1 - "The Law Was Lost"
Pages 2 to 3 - "How Can We Know The Truth?"
Pages 3 to 4 - "What Is Truth?"
Page 4 - Truth | Can You Imagine? | What Must I Do To Be Saved?

“How Can We Know The Truth?”

By Jarrod Jacobs

We live in a world of religious confusion. For example, there are many churches who claim to love God and Christ. Their people claim to be saved, and want others to be saved. Many seem to respect the Bible, and seem to want to do all God has said. On the surface, we see their attitude as commendable! How great it is to see people who are striving to do what God has told them.

However, upon closer examination, most of these people will be engaged in worshipping with instrumental music (**Eph. 5:19**), offering altar calls, teaching baptism as non-essential to salvation (**I Pet. 3:21**), involving the local church in activities that it has no authority to do, etc. Some of these churches may have a larger or a smaller organization than God ordained in the local church as well (**I Tim. 3; I Pet. 5:1-2**).

Now we ask, with so much religious confusion, how can we know the truth? How could we look to some and say, “you are wrong,” while telling others, “you are right”? How can we know the truth?

We Can Know The Truth By Studying The Bible Without Preconceived Ideas.

When preconceived ideas are a part of our Bible study, we will not know the truth! The apostle Paul demands that men, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (**II Tim. 2:15**). The Ephesians knew that when they read God’s word, they would, “*understand my (Paul’s) knowledge in the mystery of Christ*” (**Eph. 3:4**). Is it necessary that men bring their traditions, feelings, and rationalizations “to the table” when studying God’s word? No, sir! What is needed is that people put those things away and fill their minds with the pure, unadulterated Word of God. Many forget that God’s word will be used as the standard of judgment on the last day (**II Pet. 3:16; Jn. 12:48**). To refuse the Bible is to refuse the truth (**Jn. 17:17**). Thus, if we want to know the truth, we must know the Bible!

Troubles come when people “wrongly” divide God’s word! Our understanding will be skewed when we allow preconceived ideas to infiltrate our study of God’s word.

We Can Know The Truth By Being Patient As We Study.

Many will fall away and refuse the truth when they find

out that Bible study is a long process. Solomon said, “*And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh*” (**Ecc. 12:12**). God has conveyed His thoughts to us through writing that is easy to comprehend and yet incomprehensible in its scope! The Bible contains both the milk and meat of the word (**I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14**). When people become discouraged and fall away, or simply decide that they have done enough studying, they have cut off their only source of life. Don’t do that, friend! Be patient as you study and grow (**II Pet. 1: 5-6, 3:18**).

We Can Know The Truth When We Are Not Afraid To Admit Our Mistakes.

Pride will be the downfall of many (**Prov. 16:18**). The apostle Peter tells us that God will exalt us if we will humble ourselves (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Simply because we misunderstand one or more passages of Scripture does not mean that we have to stay ignorant. We need to continue to study and grow (**II Pet. 3:18**).

Consider Apollos. When found to be wrong concerning the baptism of John, he was taught, “*the way of God more perfectly*” (**Acts 18:24-26**). As a result of Aquila and Priscilla’s willingness to teach, and Apollos’ willingness to learn, he travelled abroad and “*helped the brethren much*” (**Acts 18:27-28**). What would we think of Apollos had he been one who refused men’s help, or refused to be corrected by those who loved him?

If we are to know the truth, we must not be afraid to admit our mistakes and fix them as soon as possible. Apollos did this, and went on to preach the faith in many places (**I Cor. 3**; etc.).

We Can Know The Truth When We Realize That God’s Silence Does Not Give Permission.

Many “religious” people have the mistaken idea that when God is silent, then they have freedom. Under the cloak of “silence,” people have brought instrumental music, infant baptism, and a host of other things into their religions. Friends, God’s silence prohibits action! It does not give permission.

Moses recognized God’s silence when he told those who were defiled by touching a dead body to, “*Stand still,*

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, “How Can We Know The Truth?”

and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you” (Num. 9:8). These men wanted to partake of the Passover, but could not. When they asked Moses what to do, he did not consider God’s silence to be permission. He told them to “*stand still*” until God spoke! God spoke in verse eleven, and that ended the controversy. Remember, it took God’s word to settle the question. When God is silent, we stand still!

Looking to the New Testament, Peter says, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (**I Pet. 4:11**). The word “oracles” means the “utterances.” In other words, we speak where God speaks! Thus, reasoning from the standpoint, “God didn’t say not to” is worthless! When God says nothing, we are to be silent as well. The apostles reasoned in this way when trying to determine whether or not the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be

saved (**Acts 15:7-19**). When the letter was written to those in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, the apostles said, “*Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment*” (**Acts 15:24**). In other words, those Gentiles were troubled concerning things about which the apostles had been silent! Seeing that the apostles were inspired to teach God’s word (**Jn. 16:8-13; Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15**); when they were silent on a matter it was because God was silent. Let us never forget that God’s silence prohibits action. When God is silent, we stand still!

Yes friends, we can know the truth (**Jn. 8:31-32**)! The question is, are we willing (**Jn. 7:17**)?

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

What Is Truth?

By David Padfield

In the eighteenth chapter of John, Christ stood before Pontius Pilate to answer charges of insurrection. Pilate, the governor of Judea, asked Christ if he was the King of the Jews. Christ answered by saying His kingdom was not of this world. Pilate then asked if He was a King. Jesus responded in **John 18:37** by saying, “*You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.*” Pilate, provoked by this response, replied, “*What is truth?*” (**John 18:38**). Then Pilate, thinking his last question was unanswerable, departed from the presence of Christ.

More than 1900 years after the question was first asked, many people have not found the answer. We would like to suggest a few.

God's Word Is Truth

A few hours before His death Christ prayed to His Father. In **John 17:17** He said, “*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*” The sole source of religious truth is the word of God. Religious truth will never find its source in the creeds, catechisms and church manuals written by men.

Truth Is Valuable

Proverbs 23:23 says, “*Buy the truth and sell it not.*” The value of religious truth can be seen in **John 8:32**, “*You*

shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” All men are held in bondage to sin until they are set free by the gospel.

Truth Is Narrow

In mathematics there can only be one correct answer to any given problem. The same is true in religion. Sincerity alone is not enough (**Matthew 7:21-23**). Many people teach that it doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere. The fallacy of this idea can be shown by the following statement: If it does not make any difference what you believe about Christ, then it can not make any difference if you believe in Christ. If it does not make any difference what you believe about how men are saved, then it can not make any difference if you believe anything about salvation. Will anyone deny it? The same could be said of the church and of God Himself!

Truth Is Binding

When a religiously honest man sees that he is mistaken, he ceases to be one of two things: either he ceases to be honest or he ceases to be mistaken. He cannot remain in error and retain his honesty. Many religious people have remarked, “Well, I don’t believe everything my church teaches.” If the church of which you are a member is in error, then you are obligated to either change that church or get out. Truth can have no fellowship with error.

Continued on Page Four