

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. ♦

Problems with Pride from Proverbs
Author unknown

- "These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." (6:16-19)
- "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom." (11:2)
- "By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom." (13:10)
- "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them." (14:3)
- "The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow." (15:25)
- "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished." (16:5)
- "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (16:18)
- "A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin." (21:4)
- "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor." (29:23)

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.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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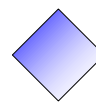


Schedule of Assembly

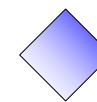
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



January 16, 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 (**Psalms 119:89**). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (**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 - "Ananias"

Page 4 - God Has A Right
Page 4 - Problems with Pride from Proverbs

“Ananias” By Jarrod Jacobs

In our study of the Bible, we find there were at least three men called “Ananias.” One was a disciple who conspired with his wife, Sapphira, to lie about the money they gave to the poor saints (**Acts 5**). One was the disciple who was called by Christ to teach Saul of Tarsus and baptize him for the remission of sin (**Acts 9, 22, 26**). The third man known as “Ananias” was the high priest of the Jews when this same Saul (now called Paul) stood on trial before the Jews and the Roman governor Felix (**Acts 23-24**). Our study will focus on the second “Ananias,” the one who taught and baptized Paul.

This Ananias was a man who appeared on the scene for a specific work or purpose, and then disappears into history; not unlike apostles like Andrew (**Jn. 1:40-42**), the unnamed prophet (**Judges 6:8-10**), Micaiah (**I Kings 22**), and many others.

Men like Ananias served important roles in the Lord’s kingdom, and in the case recorded for us in Scripture, he converted one who made great and notable strides in the church. Let us take time in this article to study Ananias and learn lessons we can apply to ourselves. What notable things do we learn about Ananias when studying the Scripture?

He Was A Disciple Of Christ.

We are first introduced to Ananias when we read, *“There was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord”* (**Acts 9:10**). Our first look at him shows us what kind of man he was; he was a disciple!

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? The word disciple has often been defined (correctly) as a student or learner. Jesus takes it a step further when He said a disciple is one who continues or abides in His word (**Jn. 8:31-32**). Therefore, it is not only one who has the “academic” knowledge of a subject, in this case the gospel. Jesus says a disciple is one who is LIVING what he has been taught! Ananias was such a person. Are you?

Could God look at us today and call us His disciples? If not, why not? If we are not living as we should, use 2011 as the year to make the necessary changes and be a “disciple indeed”!

He Had Good Qualities In The Community.

When we read **Acts 22:12**, we learn that Ananias was, *“a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there.”* In other words, in addition to his good spiritual qualities, Ananias was also a good citizen! He was known in Damascus for being like this.

In like manner, God’s people today ought to have a good reputation in our communities. Jesus taught us to do this when He told men to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s (**Matt. 22:17-21**). Furthermore, the apostle Paul wrote the Romans about the need for Christians to respect the government and leaders of the land (**Rom. 13:1-7**). In addition to being a “model citizen” and obeying the laws of the land when they do not contradict God’s laws (**Acts 5:29**), we ought to also be praying for those who lead our nation and other nations (**I Tim. 2:1-4**).

To have good qualities in the community helps us to spread God’s word and be as “shining lights” (**Matt. 5:16**)! Brethren, what is YOUR reputation in Owensboro? Do we have a name that we live, and God sees us as dead (**Rev. 3:1**)? Or, are we allowing our light to shine so folks know who we are and Whose we are? What do folks in the community see?

He Had The Attitude Of Great Faith Heroes.

When called by the Lord in his vision, Ananias responded by saying, *“I am here, Lord”* (**Acts 9:10**). This statement stands out to me! In responding in this manner, he took his place with folks like Abraham (**Gen. 22:1, 11-12**), Samuel (**I Sam. 3:4-10**), and Isaiah (**Isa. 6:8**)! Here were people ready to answer the Lord’s call and to do what was necessary even when it was difficult! In the case of Ananias, he had to speak to a killer of Christians (**Acts 9:13-14, 22:4**)! Yet, at the Lord’s beckoning, he went, and taught him the truth. Through Ananias’ faithful efforts, multitudes were brought to the Lord!

When God calls His people to do things, are we willing to do it? Are we saying, “Here am I, Lord,” or are we looking to hide from Him (**Gen. 3:8; Jonah 1:2-3**; etc.)? Do we say as Ananias, Abraham, Isaiah, and others, “Here am I, send me”? Or, are we saying, “There he is, send him”?

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, “Ananias”

After seeing what kind of man Ananias was in his service to God, are we ready and willing to serve God in the same manner?

To do so is really contagious! When we see folks with the attitude of those great faith heroes, it encourages others to act the same way! Certainly, this attitude rubbed off on a man called the apostle Paul (**Rom. 1:16**). It can still happen today!

He Was An Obedient Servant.

Though apprehensive at first, Ananias did not refuse God’s word (**Acts 9:11-17**). Ananias had fears concerning his meeting Saul like most normal men would have had. Had we been in his place, we probably would have had similar reservations about talking to a noted persecutor and killer of Christians! (A reputation that really never left Paul, **Acts 9:26-28**; etc.).

Thankfully, Ananias did not let prejudice, rumors, and reputation stand in the way of following God’s will. He had a different attitude than Jonah! Remember, Jonah finally went to Nineveh after being swallowed by a whale (**Jonah 2-3**), but was mad when the folks repented before God (**Jonah 4**).

We do not see this attitude with Ananias. When the Lord spoke to him, he went, nothing doubting, and taught Saul the truth. How about us? Do we allow rumors, or past mistakes of others to cloud our judgment when we know we ought to speak to someone about the Bible?

Let us be obedient to the call Christ gave us (**Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16**). Ananias was obedient to the vision of Christ, and in turn taught Saul of Tarsus to be obedient to God (**Acts 26:19**). Brethren, what are we teaching people through our words and actions?

Ananias Overcame Fear And Told Saul The Truth About Salvation.

When reading the account of Saul’s conversion, we find the following: *“The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (**Acts 22:14-16**). What an impressive thing to say,

especially in light of the person listening (**Acts 9:13-14**)!

Do we sometimes get afraid, or nervous when speaking the truth because we know (or think we know) how someone will react? Perhaps this one has disagreed and rejected Bible teachings in the past, because he doesn’t agree with the Bible? Do we not get concerned? Of course, we do! It happens to all of us!

Yet, we must not allow our fear to stand in the way of someone’s soul’s salvation! This is more important than my fear of something or someone (**Matt. 16:26**). Ezekiel was encouraged to preach and teach the truth, and not be afraid or dismayed at the looks of the people (**Ezek. 3:9**). Let us learn that lesson as well. The gospel has the power to save, and it must not be hindered by my fear of men or their responses!

No, Ananias did not allow fear to change the message. He spoke to Saul by God’s authority! *“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me...”* (**Acts 9:17**). Knowing that Saul had believed, spent three days in repentance (**Acts 9:9**), he was told to *“arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins ...”* (**Acts 22:16**).

Let us, like Ananias, overcome fear and talk to people about Christ. We are speaking by God’s authority as well!! Let us overcome fear and sound out the truth everywhere that we can (**Isa 58:1**). No greater injustice can be done to a person than to leave him with the impression he is saved, when he is not!

Conclusion

In closing let me ask you two questions, dear one: Who is YOUR Ananias? And, Who is it that can call you Ananias? This beginning of 2011 is a perfect time to examine ourselves (**II Cor. 13:5**) and see how we can be active this year to bring lost souls to Christ (**II Tim. 2:2**). Someone has been your “Ananias” if you are a Christian. Why not be brave, stand strong, be obedient, and a right example? In short, be a DISCIPLE of Christ, and bring someone to Christ before it is everlastingly too late (**II Cor. 6:2**).

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦