

### 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.

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.

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).

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).

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 ♦

### What Do I Owe My Congregation?

Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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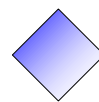


#### Schedule of Assembly

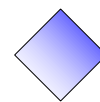
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



# The Voice of Truth



March 20, 2011

### Know The Truth

By Jimmy Pettigrew

A brother in Christ gave me a tract which he received in the mail entitled "Would you like to know the Truth?" This tract was from the Watchtower (Jehovah Witness). When you first look at the title it sounds good, but once you start reading the material it all falls apart. They ask certain questions in this tract like:

"What happens to us when we die?"  
"Is there any hope for the dead?"

All sound like good questions to ask, but how they answer, is altogether different than what the scriptures teach. They start out after labeling these questions, asking, "Where would you look for answers to these questions?" They tell us that there is "one book that contains reliable answers. It is the book of truth. And we know that Word as the Holy Bible." The Jehovah Witnesses claim to urge upon the people only the word of God and that sounds good, but not true! Actually, instead of accepting scripture only and imposing that on others, they impose their system upon the scriptures and force it to comply with their beliefs. How? Well, notice what they write in this tract concerning the question, "What happens to us when we die?" They write, "Most of the world's religions teach that something inside a person continues living after death ... or that God punishes the wicked by condemning them to eternal torment in a fiery hell." Then they write "What the Bible teaches: At death, humans cease to exist." They need to read **Matthew 17:1-13** in the Bible, concerning the transfiguration of Christ. Moses had been dead fifteen hundred years (**Deut. 34:5-7**), Elias had been departed from the earth nine hundred years (**2 Kings 2:11**). Yet both continued in existence in another place, an unearthly one. There is life after death. Only the body is in the grave. The spirit is alive, conscious. Men do not cease to exist (**1 Thess. 2:19**). There is consciousness after death. When Jesus taught of God saying, "I am the God of Abraham, and God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (**Matthew 22:32**), was He not proving that they exist? Wait, in their tract it states "The Bible teaches at

death, humans cease to exist. The dead ... are conscious of nothing at all," states **Ecclesiastes 9:5**. What does **Ecclesiastes 9:5** say? "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." They are in error concerning this verse in which they use to proof their point. The context of Ecclesiastes is discussing things on earth from the point of view of "observation", not "revelation." As far as we observe here on earth the dead know nothing of world events. They no longer use their knowledge and wisdom for they are gone, the body returns to dust, but the spirit is alive, conscious.

Does that sound like they believe in the Bible only? The Jehovah Witnesses reject the doctrine of eternal torment! Why? They claim it is unscriptural. According to the Bible, those who die in a state of rebellion toward God will be subjected to affliction in the hades realm immediately after death (**Luke 16:23-25**). Again Jesus taught, "And if thine eye cause thee to stumble, cast it out: it is good for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell; where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (**Mark 9:47-48**). **Matthew 13: 42, 50** very clearly talks about the wicked being cast "into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (**Revelation 20:11-15**). The Witnesses are in error in their teaching concerning hell. Remember they stated in the beginning of this tract, "one book that contains reliable answers... the Holy Bible." Can there be any doubt that they do not believe in the Bible only? There is eternal punishment and there is eternal life. Sometimes it is argued that there can't be eternal fire for it would soon burn you up. But we see the example of a continuing fire which does not consume in **Exodus 3:2** when Moses sees the burning bush. The bush is not consumed.

This tract goes on to ask the question: "Is there any

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hope for the Dead?" They say the Bible teaches ...those resurrected as humans will have the opportunity to live on a paradise earth (**Luke 23:43**). What does **Luke 23:43** say? *"And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."* Where is the wording that states paradise is the new earth? If Paradise is this new earth that men will live on after death, that means Christ and the repented thief were living on this new earth? Don't think so! *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up"* (**2 Peter 3:10**). **Revelation 6:14** says the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll. **Revelation 16:26** says every island fled away and no mountain was found. **Revelation 20:11** says no place was found for the earth. *"But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* (**2 Pe-**

### "The Truth About The Lord's Supper"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Were you aware that one of the 2011 Super Bowl ads was "pulled" due to its offensive nature? It was a commercial that opens with a "preacher" worrying about how the "flock" was dwindling and the bills were growing. So, he prayed and got "inspired" to provide Doritos and Pepsi Max for the Lord's Supper. When folks learned of the change, the lines were extended out the door for people to "partake", while the "preacher" rejoiced at his "inspired" decision and the money rolling in. From what I understand, there was a "Catholic" and "Protestant" version of this commercial made.

While I am happy that this commercial was pulled from the Super Bowl ads, the reason I know about its existence is because it has made its way to the internet! Therefore, folks can see it, anyway. It is just not connected with the Super Bowl, now.

This is just one more example of how people are bound and determined to make light of and even ignore the Lord's ways. First, we see men twisting Scriptures by either refusing to take the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (**Acts 2:42, 20:7**; etc.); or they engage in the opposite extreme by offering the Lord's Supper multiple times during the week and on "special occasions", like weddings. The television commercial referred to above is just another example of people making light of something that belongs to God. Just as in the days of Samuel, to bor-

**ter 3:13**). See, Jimmy the JWS are right, the new earth. No! **2 Peter 3:13** is speaking figuratively for the abode of the saints will be in heaven, not on earth (**John 14:1-3**). Where is the Lord? In heaven! **First Thessalonians** says we will ever be with the Lord (**4:16-18**). Since the JWS believe in the scriptures, they will believe Peter when he states *"our inheritance is reserved in heaven"* (**1 Peter 1:4**). There is where we put our treasures (**Matthew 6:19-21**). There we have our citizenship (**Philippians 3:20**). *"If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (**John 8:31-32**).

These teachings of the Jehovah Witnesses reject clear and unmistakable teaching of the scriptures. The Jehovah Witnesses claim that they only follow the word of God, but they twist the scriptures to fit their needs. *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one (point), he is become guilty of all"* (**James 2:10**). ♦

row a phrase, we understand that men are not making fun of us, but they are making fun of God (**1 Sam. 8:7**)! In light of this, let us search the Scriptures and learn what has been revealed from God concerning the Lord's Supper. What is the truth?

### The Lord's Supper Is A Memorial

Before Christ's death upon the cross, He instituted a memorial by which His people are to remember Him. This memorial is described in **Matthew 26:26-28**. *"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Notice that this memorial is a divinely prescribed memorial because Christ instituted it. It did not originate in the mind of man! Too, this memorial is one that continues in the Lord's kingdom. If, as some say, the Lord has not yet established His kingdom, then the Lord's Supper ought not be observed by anyone today. Yet, we see the first century Christians observing the Lord's Supper (**Acts 2:47**,

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**20:7**). Obviously, they understood the Lord's kingdom was in existence. In fact, His kingdom exists today, fulfilling prophecy that had been written down before Christ came to earth (**Dan. 2:44**)!

This memorial reminds us of the Lord's sacrifice, and ought never be taken lightly, ridiculed, or belittled! Just as we are (and should be) sober and reverent at the memorials of men (Pearl Harbor, Arlington, etc.), shouldn't there be an even greater sense of reverence, soberness, etc., when observing this memorial of Christ's death?

### The Lord's Supper Consists Of Specific Elements.

The TV ad we mentioned earlier depicted a man "inspired" to change the elements of the Lord's Supper and substitute with other things. In so doing, this man sinned. When we read from the inspired writings (**II Pet. 1:20-21**; **Jn. 16:8-13**; etc.), specifically, the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul, we learn that the elements comprising the Lord's Supper are unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (**Matt. 26:26-28**; **Mk. 14:22-25**; **Lk. 22:15-20**; **I Cor. 11:23-30**). Just as we could not observe the Lord's Supper on another day than the first day of the week, so also we cannot substitute these elements for other things.

You see, when God has been specific on a matter, then we have no right to change or substitute anything. This was true when God told Noah to specifically build an ark of gopher wood (**Gen. 6:14**). No substitutions were allowed in the type of vessel made, or the type of wood used! It was true when God demanded specific sacrifices as described in the book of Leviticus. No substitutions in the sacrifices were accepted by God. When Naaman was told the cure

for his leprosy was to go wash in the Jordan River seven times (**II Kings 5:10**). No substitutions to this plan were accepted by God! In like manner, when it comes to the Lord's Supper, since the Lord has been specific about the elements (**Mk. 14:22-25**), the day of observance (**Acts 2:47, 20:7**), the meaning behind it, etc., how can we accept any substitute? We can't!

Christ has been specific as to what He wants, and we need to respect His will!

### The Lord's Supper Is A Communion.

The apostle Paul wrote, *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"* (**I Cor. 10:16**). To speak of a communion is to speak of a partaking, a sharing, a partnership, or fellowship. Thus, when Christians are worshipping on the first day of the week and partaking of the Lord's Supper, we are sharing together with the Lord. We are in fellowship with Him! What a wonderful and special blessing this is! Truly, we draw closer to God when we worship Him in spirit and in truth (**Jn. 4:24**)! How sad it is that folks have tried to cheapen this experience through changing the elements, or through changing the day of observance, and similar things. This is a sharing together that Christians do with Christ, since we are together in the kingdom, now (see: **Matt. 26:28**)!

### Conclusion

In light of Scriptural evidence, let us respect the Lord's plan for our partaking of the Lord's Supper. Man may use TV, the internet, radio, etc., to make light of this act of worship, but we know the truth!

*Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦*

### 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.