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experience. A Christian must accept and realize his re-deemed status as part of the blood-bought church! Paul told the elders of the church in Ephesus, "to shepherd the church of God which he [Jesus] purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

A Christian must begin to see the depth of his relationship to Christ as part of the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17). Illustrating the marriage relationship, Paul told the Ephesians, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27).

Jesus told Peter, "on this rock I will build My church" (Matt. 16:18). In light of Peter's admonishment to us as Christians, "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:4-5), realize that Jesus did not have a physical building or place in mind, but a spiritual people in mind. Peter wasn't suggesting that we go to church. He was telling us to be the church.

Being the church is far more encompassing and requires a far greater commitment than simply going to church. So, the next time you "go to church" ... challenge yourself with the question, "What have I done during the rest of the week to be part of the church?"

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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

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

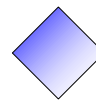


Schedule of Assembly

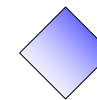
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



May 22, 2011

Judgment Day, May 21st, 2011: What a Scam!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

What do the words "false teacher" mean? "False" carries the idea of not being true, not genuine. It opposes the truth in God's word. "Teacher," one who teaches; the act; or practice; profess doctrine, or an idea, but doesn't mean it's bad, because a teacher just professes something. But when you put these two words together, what we are looking at is one who professes a doctrine (teaching) contrary to the will of God or practices something contrary to the will of God. This should help us as we go thru this article to understand who is a false teacher.

Well, yesterday we were told that Judgment Day was to occur. Billboards, newspapers, internet headlines and radio programs plastered all over the country announce the doomsday prophecy, "Judgment Day Saturday May 21st." What a fool, what a con Harold Camping is, a false teacher, one who professes a teaching contrary to the will of God. You may ask: "How shall we know the word which Jehovah hath not spoken?" (Deut. 18:21). Well, we are able to know when people go into error! As there are true teachers that speak the word of God, there are also false teachers that would lead people astray. How shall we know what is true? The scriptures say, "When a prophet speaketh in the name of Jehovah, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Jehovah hath not spoken: the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deut. 18:22). The false teacher was to be discovered by the fact, that the word proclaimed by him did not follow or come to pass, i.e., that his prophecy was not fulfilled. "By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6). Well, we are still here to see another day; judgment day on May 21st did come to realization. Meaning one thing that Harold Camping doesn't represent the truth, he is a false teacher, and his alleged calculation was produced by his own mind, which has misled people. "Believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:6). People need to understand that not all spirits are of God; not all teaching is of God. How can anyone follow such a

deceiver, a fraud?

Isaiah spoke of teachers that "teacheth lies" (Isaiah 9:15). Jeremiah said the Lord spoke unto him, "The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither spake I unto them: they prophesy unto you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their own heart" (Jeremiah 14:14). Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15). Paul warned that there would arise "seducing spirits," and teachers walking after their own lusts (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:1-4). Peter says there shall be "false teachers" who shall "privily" (secretly, "crept in unawares" Jude 4) bring in "destructive heresies" (false doctrine that would destroy souls). The result of false teaching is destruction. False doctrine is not just the slip of the tongue; it is deadly to those who believe it and those who teach it.

I want us to notice that right before his crucifixion, in Matthew 24, after telling the disciples of the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., Jesus responded to his disciples' questions about the end of the world. Jesus made this statement in regard to his future return: "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44). The second coming will occur at a time when men do not expect it, and that should set at rest the speculations of those (Harold Camping) who have thought to discover it. Can you really believe that Harold Camping, who claims to have discovered the super-secret formula of judgment day on May 21st, and that Christ, the Son of God wasn't aware of such a date? That he knew more about this day than Christ! The Bible teaches that no one knows when Jesus will actually come again. "But of that day and hour knoweth no one, not even the angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Christ did not know the day and hour of the judgment. Since no man knoweth, "not the angels of heaven, but my Father only,"

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then it is sheer folly for anyone to speculate and prophesy about when the Lord will come. The second coming of Christ will be “as *the days of Noe were*” (**Matthew 24:37**). In the “days that were before the flood” people were going about business as normal “*until the day*” that the flood came, “*so shall be the coming of the Son of man*” (**Matthew 24:38-39**). The people of ancient Sodom were unaware of the impending disaster until “*the day that Lot went out from Sodom,*” even so “*after the same manner shall it be in the day that the Son of man is revealed*” (**Luke. 17:28-30**). Christ declared that he would come at an unexpected time, even as a thief does. “*If the master of the house had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken through. Therefore be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh*” (**Matthew 24:43-44**; cf. **1 Thess. 5:2**; **2 Pet. 3:10**). Just as the thief gives no advance announcement of his visit, neither will Christ give a prior notice of His Second Coming. People listen, Harold Camping does not represent the truth, and he is a false teacher!

ordeal? That people will ridicule religion because of him, atheists and non-believers will mock the scriptures, and Christians for believing in the Second Coming of Christ. All because this false teacher doesn't know the Bible from almanac! It just makes me sick that people will scoff at the Bible because of this false teacher (Harold Camping) who serves not our Lord Christ but his own belly; and by his smooth and fair speech he beguiles the hearts of the innocent (**Romans 16:18**).

People need to remember that Christ is coming! The Lord Himself predicted it (**John 14:1-3**). The angels declared His second coming (**Acts 1:11-12**). In fact, the first message to mankind at the Lord's ascension was: Christ is coming! Jesus said “*watch*” (**Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13**). He shall come to eternally save those who “*look for Him*” (**Hebrews 9:28**). Men waste precious time vainly speculation about the Lord's second coming. The main issue concerning the Lord's coming is not when but how will he find me when He comes! Until men obey the gospel they are unprepared to meet the Lord (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). Unless men are faithful to Christ and in His service they are not prepared to meet Him (**1 Thess. 5:6**). There's a great day coming, are you ready for that day to come? ♦

Do you know what makes me appalled with this whole

“We” Or “They”?

By Jarrod Jacobs

When we use certain words and phrases, we know they have certain meanings. Such is the case when we use the words, “we” and “they.” “We” implies familiarity, kinship, closeness, or oneness. “They” implies a separation (real or imagined). “They” implies a situation in which the one speaking is not included, or is considered an outsider. In other words, “we” implies that the one speaking was a participant in an activity, while “they” implies that though one may have observed the activity, the one speaking was not included in it.

For example, since September of 2001, it is not uncommon to hear people who live in areas other than New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania speak of how “we” were attacked by the Muslim terrorists. There are few in our country who say “they” were attacked, for we all feel a kinship with our countrymen. On a lesser scale, but similarly, when some watch a ball game, and their favorite team wins, don't these folks often say, “**We** won the game!”? Though all “we” did was watch those guys play (and win) the game (from the stadium, or on TV)! Yet, we feel a kinship with those who actually played the game, don't we?

This article is not intended to be a grammar lesson. I stress the words “we” and “they” to ask a spiritual question. Put simply, What is our attitude toward this church? Is our attitude one of “we” or “they”? For example ...

1. This church supports men in various parts of this country and world who are preaching the gospel. Do I tell folks, “**We** financially support preachers of the gospel in various places”? Or, do I say, “**They** financially support preachers of the gospel in various places”?
2. Is it “we” or “they” who have a radio program on Sunday afternoon?
3. Do “we” have a good number of song leaders, or do “they” have a good number of song leaders?
4. Is it “we” or “they” who worship God at 2920 New Hartford Road?

I believe we get the point. Yes, the terms “we” and “they” make a great difference when we put them in sentences such as the above, don't they? The local congregation here is not made up of one or two, but is composed of all of us! Let us learn and learn well that “we” are in this together! “We” are all “we” have! “We” need to be united

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in love, and working toward a common goal (**Phil. 3:13-14**). “We” need to be likeminded (**Phil. 2:2**). The only way this will be accomplished is when “we” are determined to follow all and only what the Bible says (**Phil. 1:27**).

Some may feel left out at times because they are not taking a public role, or perhaps they are not involved in every activity in which they would like to be involved. Please do not sell yourself short. Just because I didn't have a public part in worship services, does not mean I am not needed! Often, the most important work is that which is done “behind the scenes.” Not merely weekly, but daily, I can pray for my brethren (**1 Tim. 2:1**; **1 Thess. 5:17**). Not merely weekly, but daily, I can encourage and exhort brethren by my words and actions to do better and to grow in the Lord; and then be HAPPY when they do it! (**Eph. 4:29**; **Matt. 7:12**; **Rom. 12:9**; etc.) Not merely weekly, but daily, I need to be a good example to folks and show them how a Christian acts in this world (**Matt. 5:13-16**). In so doing, “we” Christians help each other prepare for Heaven!

Christ said, “*He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward*” (**Matt. 10:41-42**). In other words, if I will help my brethren who are doing their best for the Lord; and help them because they are

Don't Just Go to Church, Be the Church

By Jonathan L. Perz

The mind and heart of one who merely goes to church differs greatly from the mind and heart of one who realizes he is part of the church.

One who merely goes to church sees church as a place. He knows the church is the people, and not a building, yet church is still someplace he goes. Spiritually and physically, he arrives at church and leaves church. It is a place with expectations, conduct and qualities that differ from his day-to-day existence. In his mind and even in his speech, church is a “where” and not a “who.”

He sees church as a temporary activity, an appointment to keep, an obligation to fulfill. It has a start time and an end time and fits neatly into a block in his datebook. It might even be a priority, but it still must compete

servicing God, then God is aware of this; and will reward me accordingly! The parallel passage, **Mark 9:41**, makes this clear when Mark records: “*Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.*” Yes, it is a “team effort” when we help one another in this world. “*For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister*” (**Heb. 6:10**). It is not “we” versus “they”, or “us” versus “them” in the Kingdom! Truly, “*none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself*” (**Rom. 14:7**).

Conclusion

Let us all realize that we are in this together as children of God! Let us not exhibit an “us” versus “them” mentality. Let us not have the attitude which says, “They do so-and-so...” Let us realize that in this congregation, we are one. Just because I may not be an “eye” or an “ear” does not mean I am not a part of the body (**1 Cor. 12:12-27**)! You and I are participants, not spectators, as Christians and in the work here at Southside! Therefore, let us get to work. Let us be fired up, ready to do the Lord's work whenever and wherever we can.

We have a lot of growing to do, both spiritually and physically. Pronouns such as “they” and “them” ought not enter into our vocabulary here when talking about the work of this congregation. Rather, it is “we” and “us” who are striving together for Heaven!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

with other comparable items on his calendar. When an item is completed, he can check it as done, at least until the next scheduled event.

While church may be an enjoyable experience to him, it is just that—an experience. He goes, feels good about it and comes home. He treats church much like he would treat a movie or a concert. The experience might touch him in a deeper way than other activities, but ultimately, it is tantamount to a feeling that comes and then is gone.

Though “church” in our modern culture has in many ways been belittled to this superficial reality, it is simply not treated in this manner in the Bible.

Jesus died for more than a place, an activity or an

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