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man will not only seek it; he will find it, keep it and live by it. "He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good" (Prov. 19:8). In another

place, the wise man writes, "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Prov. 23:23). Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

"WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?"

One Where His Name Is Glorified

Acts 4:12 - No other name whereby we might be saved.
Acts 11:26 - God gave the name Christian
1 Peter 4:16 - We can glorify God in this name.

One Where His Teachings On Salvation Are Followed

John 14:6 - Only He is the way to heaven.
Hebrews 5:9 - All must obey Him to be saved.
John 8:24 - He said we must believe on Him.
Luke 13:3 - He said we must repent.
Matthew 10:32-33 - He said we must confess Him.
Mark 16:16 - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship

John 4:24 - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.
Acts 20:7 - Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.
Colossians 3:16 - Singing praises to God.
Acts 2:42 - Prayer and teaching.
1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST "The churches of Christ salute you." (Romans 16:16) ♦

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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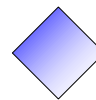


Schedule of Assembly

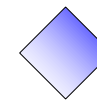
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



August 7, 2011

The Eyes Of The Lord
 By Jimmy Pettigrew

God is watching! "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). The righteous are the ones over whom God watches to bless them. They are here contrasted with them that do evil. God's protection, guardianship, and care are so meaningful for the Christian. God sees all that happens on the earth. We are prone to accept only that which is visible, and since we cannot see God watching, we are unmindful of His constant surveillance!

So, it is difficult for any of us to remember always that there is an all seeing eye watching our every our every act at all times. Yet, we're told, "Jehovah looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men; From the place of his habitation he looketh forth upon all the inhabitants of the earth, He that fashioneth the hearts of them all, that considereth all their works" (Psalm 33:13-14). God sees and knows all that takes place in the world. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). There is no possible way to escape this all seeing eye of God! Job says, "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21). God sees all! The ungodly try to forget it and often succeed in banishing Him out of their thoughts (Psalm 10:4). Yet, despite all their efforts to hide, still He sees them. His eyes are in every place. Heaven, hell, and the secret places of the earth are all open before Him (Proverbs 15:11; Psalm 139:8). He is watching the evil; whether the king is on his throne (Acts 12:23); or in his palace (Daniel 5:5); or the servant indulging in his secret sin (2 Kings 5:20). Yes - he may shut out the sun, but he cannot shut out the eye of God, no darkness or deep shadow can hide man (Job 34:21-22; Jeremiah 16:17). Reckless indeed is he to do or think that he could hide from God; and then - such is the root of atheism (Psalm 14:1) - thinking he can do so (Isaiah 29:15).

Since God knows all our goings, we should be aware of this, and live accordingly! We should have the same con-

viction as Hagar in saying, "Thou God seest me" (Genesis 16:13). Are you conscious of this as you plan and proceed in your daily affairs? God sees and reads us constantly! "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?" (Proverbs 15:11). Hell and destruction; every recess of the vast Hades; the state of the dead, and the place of the damned - are before the Lord, before His eyes; completely known to Him. How much more, then, the hearts of the children of men (1 John 3:20), no matter how unsearchable they are (Jeremiah 17:9-10)! There's no depth in them that He cannot fathom; no deceit so complicated, that he can't track them. Words aren't needed in order for Him to lay open the heart. He perceived Aaron's rebellious feelings as easily as Moses' angry words (Numbers 20:12, 24). The inward hypocrisy of His people was as open before Him, as if it had been stamped upon their foreheads (Deut. 5:28-29; Zeph. 1:12).

Yet, what a mass of practical unbelief there is in this plainly conclusive truth! For would men dare to tolerate their vain thoughts, light notions, trifles, impurities, if they really believed that the Lord searches their hearts? Would they attempt to conceal anything from His eye (Isaiah 29:15)? OH! Isn't it an overwhelming moment when a man has to stand the test of this searching eye? Brethren, make no mistake about it, your heart is open before your God. No covering of deceit can ever stand His searching eye. And all refuges of lies are pierced and laid bare. Though many of these passages are so well known, yet, how much have they really influenced our personal lives? Are we conscious throughout every day that God is silently observing our deeds and hearing our speech?

We can no more hide from God than could Adam and Eve in the garden. God knew why the prophet (Elijah) was hiding in the cave. Jonah was not hidden from God in the ship, nor yet in the belly of the great fish. Man cannot escape from Him. There is nothing that can hide from God!

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And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13).

God is observing all we do, and hearing all we say. Just remember that God is really watching! ♦

"The Priceless Word Of God"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Have you ever considered the true value of God's word? While many today consider it worthless; those who are spiritually minded (I Cor. 1:18), and love the Lord, place great value upon God's word. Truly, this gift of God to man is priceless! What makes the word of God priceless? Let us study and find out.

God's word is priceless because God breathed out (inspired) His word to men through the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21). The words we read are not men's "impressions" or men's "summary" of God's word, but the actual WORD God spoke to men (Jer. 1:9; Isa. 51:16; Ezek. 3:10; Matt. 10:19; Lk. 12:12)! As in Old Testament days, so also the apostles spoke, "as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). Therefore, when we follow the Bible today, we are following God's word, and not man's. The Bible contains the priceless word of God!

Another reason the word of God is priceless is because it is eternal. Listen to David: "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89). Jesus spoke about this aspect of God's word, saying, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Peter also declared, "The word of the Lord endureth for ever" (I Pet. 1:25). Meditate upon these verses (Ps. 1:2). The word of God is eternal! While men's words pass away, God's word will never pass away. Have we noticed that many of the books men write today are out of date before they ever hit the bookstores? This ought to say something. How priceless is God's eternal word! It is just as true (Jn. 17:17), as accurate, as alive (Heb. 4:12), and as needed today as ever; and it will continue to be such when this world is on fire!

It is priceless because His word is truth. So said Jesus in John 17:17: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." There are no errors, or false statements in God's word. It is truth! Though not a scientific book, God's word is scientifically true, stating observable scientific facts (Gen. 1:1-2; Isa. 40:22; Ecc. 1:5-7). Though not a geography book, the Bible is geographically true. The cities, countries, and geographic landmarks mentioned in the Bible actually existed. Some are in existence to this day! Though not a history book, the Bible is historically true. The kings

and empires are mentioned in the correct historic time periods! There are no anachronisms in the Bible! How priceless is God's word? It is truth, and reveals the truth concerning what men must do to be saved (Acts 2:38). It tells us the truth concerning how we ought to live while upon this earth (Phil. 4:8-9; Titus 2:11-12). God's word also directs our steps for living a morally pure life (I Tim. 5:22; Matt. 5:22, 28, 33-48; etc.). Not only is it true in this way, but God's word is true because its prophecies and promises are true. God's prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New. So also has He made promises to His people which He will keep today! God's word is a priceless treasure given to us.

Finally, the word of God is priceless because of what it took to get His word to the present generation. It took the blood of the Son of God! It took the blood of martyrs, of prophets, and others to bring God's word to men. It took people losing their livelihoods, friends, family; yea everything so that God's word might be spread upon this earth. For a glimpse of what was necessary, read Hebrews 11:32-39 and be reminded of the sacrifices made by the people of God through the centuries in order to proclaim God's word to a rebellious people. Further, look closely at the life of the apostle Paul and see what he endured in order to spread God's word to a lost and dying world (II Cor. 11:23-28). Certainly look to our greatest example, our Lord Jesus Christ, who had to suffer at the hands of His own in order to teach and preach God's word upon this earth (Jn. 1:11). Yes, many people before us knew that God's word is priceless. Consider the price they paid in order to teach it to others!

Do we appreciate God's priceless word? I hope we do! God's word was GIVEN to men. Yet, it is more valuable than all of the world's treasures!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Sinning Against Wisdom

By Jonathan L. Perz

Using the literary device of personification, Solomon describes wisdom in some of the strongest terms possible—he speaks of wisdom in terms of life and death. He writes, "For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death" (Proverbs 8:35-36).

Ensnared within this life and death concept of the importance of wisdom. Solomon also sets forth the idea of "sinning against" wisdom as a wrong against our own soul. Have you ever imagined wisdom in those terms? Have you ever considered whether or not you have sinned against wisdom? Do you wrong your own soul?

If any man could speak of the value of wisdom, Solomon could. The annals of Israel's history say this of Solomon: "And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men..." (1 Kings 4:29-31a).

This, of course, adds all the more significance to his evaluation of wisdom. So important is wisdom, that the language he uses almost makes you think that he is speaking of finding or hating God, and not merely wisdom. Yet, he is eloquently exalting the value of wisdom.

How is it that one sins against wisdom? In the simplest of terms, to sin is to transgress, or to fall short of or go beyond. It means to miss the mark (cf. 1 John 3:4—KJV). To sin against wisdom suggests the idea of wandering from the way of wisdom.

When it comes to wisdom, one of the greatest contrasts we must learn as Christians is the difference between the wisdom of God, which Solomon extols, and the wisdom of men, which is often shed in a foolish light in comparison. One consistently leads to eternal life, whereas the other is rooted in the ways of this world, which are despised and condemned by God.

The Holy Spirit tells us through the apostle Paul, "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Cor. 3:18). This suggests that those who are

so enamored with the wisdom of this world will inevitably be blind to the wisdom of God. By failing to see the difference, they sin against wisdom. The only remedy is for one to become a fool in the ways of this world so that he may become wise in the ways of God.

This same sin against wisdom can be seen in those who reject, or even mock, the cross of Jesus. Earlier in the same epistle Paul wrote, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.' Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those of us who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Not only does the wisdom of God render foolish the wisdom of men, its fruit is righteous whereas the fruit of the wisdom of men is sinful. Consider the inspired words of James who writes, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:13-18). This also manifests how we can sin against the wisdom of God, by attributing the fruit of God to the wisdom of men and the fruit of men to the wisdom of God.

While there is much more that is written about wisdom, the basic fact of the matter is that a fool will have no heart for wisdom (Prov. 17:16; 24:7), whereas an understanding

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