

## Will Modernism Destroy Us?

In the past several years we have seen modernism raising its ugly head in the churches of Christ. Several elderships and many preachers have taught regarding the perils of modernism. These saw the effects of it in various congregations as well as in many denominations. We raised our voices and some heard while others did not care. Those who a few years ago had the “I don’t care” attitudes are today given over to modernism and its trends. We submit that modernism is not a new thing at all. In fact, the tempter was the first modernist. When Satan said, “yea hath God said” he began the slippery slope down the dark road of modernism. Modernism promised in the temptation something that is impossible for man to be—“as God.” We must understand that modernism denies the reality of sin. Modernism waters sin down to the point that it no longer exists regardless of what the Scriptures teach. For instance, look what Adam said after the fall, “the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12). Eve blamed the serpent, Adam blamed God and from then until now man has not been prone to shoulder his own personal responsibilities for the most part. Very few in the Scriptures admitted that they had sinned. We want to shift responsibility to someone or something else because we must “white wash” our own faults and set out thinking toward a more modern view of the Word in order to justify ourselves. Why? Because modernism is man’s effort to make the Bible conform in varying degrees to what man wants all the way to re-constructing the Gospel to the restructuring the church. Ah, now we see why so much liberalism and compromise permeates us today. Many do not want to do what the Bible says so we will get us a new Bible that will suit our own style of living or we will ignore plain passages not thinking of judgment (cf. Jon. 12:48).

The modernist goes on with these thoughts and teaches that “everything dwells in varying degrees and can be measured.” Measured by what? Of course, by the instrument or thing that the modernist creates! This would require some method and the way to determine method is very important. For instance, you cannot smell, taste, or see the modernist. An x-ray machine will not find them out. However, their words do and will betray them.

Subjectivity led to this malady in a large way. The conduct of some Christians makes others resign from the thought of pure Christianity and this is hypocrisy. Division has been created among us as well as the religious world in general. This, in my judgment, is one of the things that has led many toward agnosticism. And, why not? The modernist already rejects the Bible especially every miracle that is given therein. There is no study among them except trying to find a defense of the very selfish doctrine they hold dear. They can all day long tell one what the Bible does not say while ignoring what it does say.

All of us need to study the Bible more than we do because this is the only thing that will lead us to a wholesome Christianity. We need to ask for evidence. We need to state (live) our faith instead of showing a lack of faith. We need to teach the Scriptures to our children. As long as we feed them with intellectualism modernism will flourish. Modernism will starve to death if we will feed ourselves and the people we teach the pure Word of God.

Harrell Davidson  
Obion, TN



**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
"To see the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)  
Volume 10 Number 33 August 16, 2009  
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574  
(Greater Augusta, GA area)  
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am. Morning Worship 11:00 am. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.  
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663  
www.belvederechurchofchrist.org E-mail church@belvederechurchofchrist.org

## IS THE BIBLE ENOUGH?

Is the Bible sufficient for our salvation? Do we need anything else to aid us in salvation? The denominational world teaches us that we do. The Mormons believe the Book of Mormon is needed in addition to the Bible. The Methodists rely on the Methodist Discipline for their answer. Other denominations use their creed books to decide the rule of faith. Do we need these creed books written by man to find the answers for salvation? Absolutely not! The Bible gives us the answer for everything spiritually. Notice these observations about the Bible.

**The Bible Is Inspired of God.** No other book in the world can claim inspiration. Joseph Smith “said” that the Book of Mormon is inspired, but it has been found full of errors and contradictions. The Bible, however, has been proven to be genuine. Paul states in 2 Tim. 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Since the word of God completely furnishes man, he does not need anything in addition to the Bible.

**The Bible Supplies Our Needs.** Peter writes: “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Pet. 1:3). God’s “divine power” is His word (Rom. 1:16) and it gives us **all** things for life and godliness. This covers the entire scope of our lives. Do we need something in addition to the Word of God? Absolutely not! Creed books cannot supply these needs, only God’s Word can.

**The Bible Is Pure.** Psalm 119:140 records, “The word is very pure, therefore thy servant loveth it.” The word “pure” means, “free from defilement, uncontaminated.” In Prov.30:5-6, Solomon writes, “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” Those that add unto the pure word of God will be reprov’d (Rev. 22:18-19). Creed books are not pure because they contain many things contrary to the Word of God and they also contradict themselves.

Continued on page 3

**DON'T BE A QUITTER!**

Sir Winston Churchill, as Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II, delivered many stirring speeches to encourage the people of Great Britain and others throughout the world. However, one outstanding speech that he gave during the war years was a speech to the pupils at Harrow School in 1941, where he himself had formally been a pupil. In the course of that address, he stated, "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

Another has stated, "Quitters never win and winners never quit." Those who achieve in life are those who refuse to quit when the going gets tough. Indeed, as has been said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." When things look difficult and the outlook seems bleak it seems that the easy way to overcome problems is to drop out but that is not so. The only time we should be a quitter is when we have done wrong.

It can't be estimated how many battles have been lost, inventions that never came, records that were not broken, marriages that were dissolved simply because someone quit too soon. Eternity alone will tell us how many souls were lost, good works were not accomplished, spiritual victories that never happened because someone quit their post in the Kingdom of God. God is not pleased with those that quit. Suppose Noah had quit before he had completed the Ark? Suppose Moses had quit because of all of the murmuring and complaining of the Israelites and left them without a leader in the wilderness. What if our Lord had quit because His brothers rejected Him, His disciples displayed worldly ambition, when one of the twelve betrayed Him and another denied that he even knew Him? What if he had quit because His enemies attacked Him so much that it became apparent that it would not cease until He was dead? What if Paul had quit when he became discouraged because of opposition and imprisonment?

What about you? Are you tired because you seem to be taken from granted and feel like quitting because you have faithfully served for a number of years and your efforts have seemingly gone unnoticed? Perhaps someone in the church has mistreated you or unjustly criticized you and you feel like quitting. You feel like dropping out because the going gets rough from time to time. **DON'T QUIT! NEVER, NEVER, NEVER DO THAT!** Remember, "*No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*" (Luke 9:62). "*And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Galatians 6:9).

The Lord's army is in desperate need of soldiers who will never, never, never, quit their posts and will fight for the Lord's cause, even unto death, if necessary to complete their tasks. May we stand fast for the Lord and not quit our posts. Remember, the Lord's doesn't want us to be quitters.

*Ken Chumbley*

**NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Our sympathy is expressed to the Ron Wilson family in the passing of Ron's aunt in Indiana. Ron left Sunday afternoon for the funeral but returned Tuesday night.

Our sympathy is extended to Les and Helen Culpepper in the passing of their son, James Culpepper, last Tuesday. The family had private services on Friday.

Pam Gossett was out of town Sunday.

Myrtle Grimsley was sick and unable to be out last Sunday.

Susan Arnold was sick Sunday as were some of the children.

Our next fellowship meal will be after morning services on August 23. Plan to stay and eat.

**IS THE BIBLE ENOUGH? Continued from page 1**

**The Bible Is Right.** The Psalmist affirmed this in Psa. 33:4 when he wrote, "*For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.*" Since the word of the Lord is right, there is no reason to follow a "creed" of man.

**The Bible is Able To Save.** In 1 Pet. 1:22-23, Peter wrote, "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*" A person is saved by obeying the truth by being born again through faith in the word of God (Rom. 10:17); repenting of his sins (Lk. 13:3); confessing his faith (Rom. 10:10) and being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 47, 1 Pet. 3:21). No creed book can substantiate such a claim. The Baptist manual contradicts itself by saying the salvation is "wholly of grace" (Hiscox, p. 61) and "solely through faith" (Hiscox, p. 62). Is it "grace only" or "faith only"? Neither! A person is saved by grace through the act of faith in obedience to God's Word (Eph. 2:8). Other creed books have similar errors concerning salvation.

The Bible is sufficient for all our needs. We do not need a manual, discipline, catechism or any other creed for salvation. The Bible completely satisfies God's requirement for salvation.

*John West  
Spring, TX*