

## RESPECT FOR SCRIPTURE

Jesus said the following concerning the law of Moses: Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 5:19).

If the Lord's displeasure was clearly upon those who would break even the least command of the inferior covenant (which was soon to pass away), how much more shall His wrath be upon those who disrespect the superior covenant of Calvary? The inspired writer makes this very argument in Hebrews 2:2-3: For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

Unmistakably, the Lord's approval is only upon those who faithfully obey and teach His Word. No less unmistakably, His wrath is upon those who treat His Word with disdain and disrespect. There really is no other criterion for measuring faithfulness to Christ: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Show me a man who is flippant, careless, superior, and/or disdainful in his attitude toward the Sacred Page, and I will show you a man possessed of the same attitudes toward its Divine Author, regardless of his claims to the contrary.

How strange that in this nation, founded to such a great degree upon reverence for the Bible as the Word of the living God, we now see Scripture and all that it conveys under fierce assault. Multitudes, who are not actively attacking long ago abandoned any respect for it as a pattern for life. Stranger still, we have come to the day when it seems that God's Word is hardly even considered before some new program is launched, some new gimmick is adopted, or even some new doctrine is taught among the people of God. We should not be surprised that secular, atheistic, humanistic, and hedonistic worldlings despise God's Word. They always have and always will. The amazement is almost overwhelming when those who claim to be the people of God disdain the Holy Book.

In a day when many brethren falsely charge those who are set for the defense of the Gospel with "bibliolatry" (i.e., worshiping the Bible), we take refuge in the Lord's own unblushing respect for the written Word. Every word He ever said concerning or quoted from the inspired writers, whether in the law, the prophets, or the psalms (Luke 24:44), demonstrated His absolute confidence in the Sacred Text. These statements included His references to the account of creation, Jonah and the great fish, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Moses and the burning bush, and Lot's wife's becoming a pillar of salt, all of which modernist theologians and other assorted infidels so enjoy classifying and ridiculing as "myths" and "legends" and attempting to explain as mere "natural" phenomena.

Faithfulness to God absolutely demands the same confidence in His Word our Lord demonstrated. When one surrenders undaunted faith in the Holy Word, he has surrendered confidence in all that really matters. "To the law and to the testimony," is the consistent cry of God's faithful people.

*Dub McClish, Denton, TX*

**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)  
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY:</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	
Bible Classes for all ages	10:00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7:00 pm.
Morning Worship	11:00 am.		
Evening Worship	6:00 pm.		

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## Patience in Doctrinal Matters

A couple decades back, Rubel Shelly began teaching some strange doctrines. Rubel Shelly was known for his soundness, so many refused to believe anything of a negative nature concerning him. However, faithful brethren were showing the errors and contradictions with his previous writings and views. Many people were pleading for patience with Rubel instead of marking and avoiding him as God teaches: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17).

Many others have taken this same view regarding Dave Miller and his false teachings. Certainly, time should be given for people to study the issues, gather the facts, and come to a conclusion regarding these matters. (However, this should not take years to do.) Yet, many of us who oppose Dave Miller and his damnable doctrines have been condemned by Miller's supporters because we showed patience with others. They have condemned us of inconsistency in our dealings regarding these matters; when, in actuality, we were simply giving others time to learn about it. (If we had not been patient, these same ones would have condemned us for being impatient and "jumping the gun.")

Patience is a virtue. However, we cannot allow it to get in the way of doing what needs to be done and allow it to become a vice.

*Michael Hatcher  
Pensacola, FL*

## GOING FOR THE GOLD

We are now in the midst of the 2010 Winter Olympics being held this year in Vancouver, Canada. Athletes from all over the world are competing. Some even from countries that are not known for winter sports because they do not have the snow. These athletes are striving for the Gold Medal. They are there representing their country and want to have the honor of getting the Gold for their country. Not all will make that goal. There will be winners and losers, some will manage just silver or bronze while others will go home empty handed. However, they are all “going for gold.” That is their desire, that is why they have been training hard. They are striving to be the very best that they can be in order to win the medal.

Did you know that the apostle Paul references the ancient Olympic games that began in ancient Greece. One of these is found in I Corinthians 9:24-27: *“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”* Yes, in the Olympics only one in an event reaches the gold (unless on a rare occasion there is a tie). However, Paul encourages all to run to attain and indeed all in Christ can win. Those who compete in games are temperate in order that they can prepare themselves properly for the race. Christians must also be temperate. Paul also draws a distinction, the crown or the gold in the Olympics is temporal, it doesn’t last forever, it is corruptible but the Christian’s crown is incorruptible. The runner runs with certainty, his eye on the goal and keeping his body in subjection and so should Christians.

Another lesson Paul teaches based on the games is: *“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully”* (II Tim. 2:5). Those who compete in the Olympics must “play by the rules,” they must *“strive lawfully.”* The same is true in the Christian life, we must follow the rules that God has laid down in His Word.

Another reference is found in the book of Hebrews: *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”* (12:1). The competitor in the Olympics sheds anything that will hinder his performance. So too must Christians in the race that is set before them.

A final passage to consider is: *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (II Tim. 4:7-8). Here Paul illustrates the Christian life as being like a boxing tournament where he had *“fought a good fight.”* He also indicated that he had *“finished his course.”* He reached the end and was crossing the finishing line. His reward was the “gold” the incorruptible *“crown of righteousness.”* May we so live as God directs that at the end of this life we can say those same words knowing our crown awaits us. Let us always “go for the gold” and follow God’s way.

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Lanny Niver continues to recuperate at home and is restricted in what he can do while he awaits further surgery.

Helen Culpepper is in ICU at Trinity. They have put her on a ventilator to give her treatments as she was too panicky to do them without. The latest report is that she is showing some improvement as a result of the treatments. Let us keep her and Les in our prayers.

The Wilsons were visiting Kimberly and Jennifer last Sunday in Athens, GA. Steven Wilson was also unwell earlier in the week.

We will have a potluck after the morning services. Plan to stay and eat together.

### Consider the Heavens

One evening when Napoleon was returning to France from the expedition to Egypt, a group of French officers entered into a discussion concerning the existence of God. They were on the deck of the vessel that bore them over the Mediterranean Sea. Thoroughly imbued with the skeptical and atheistical spirit of the times, they were unanimous in their denial of God. It was decided to ask the opinion of Napoleon, who was standing alone wrapped in silent thought. On hearing the question, “Is there a God?” he raised his hand and pointing to the starry firmament simply responded, “Gentlemen, who made all that?”

*Author Unknown*