

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

In Galatians 6:14 Paul says, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” In this verse, Paul show the proper place of glorying and in focusing on the Christ. He also speaks of two “crucifixions” here: The world is crucified to the child of God and the child of God is crucified unto the world. To crucified to something means to be dead to it. So, Paul’s meaning here is to be dead or separated from the world. In Romans 6:3-5, Paul teaches that baptism is patterned after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Paul then explains in verse 6: “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” This is the idea in Galatians 6:14. The Christian will not now let the world and its appeals, lusts, and enticements attract him.

Because Paul had experienced the new birth at baptism, he was able say:

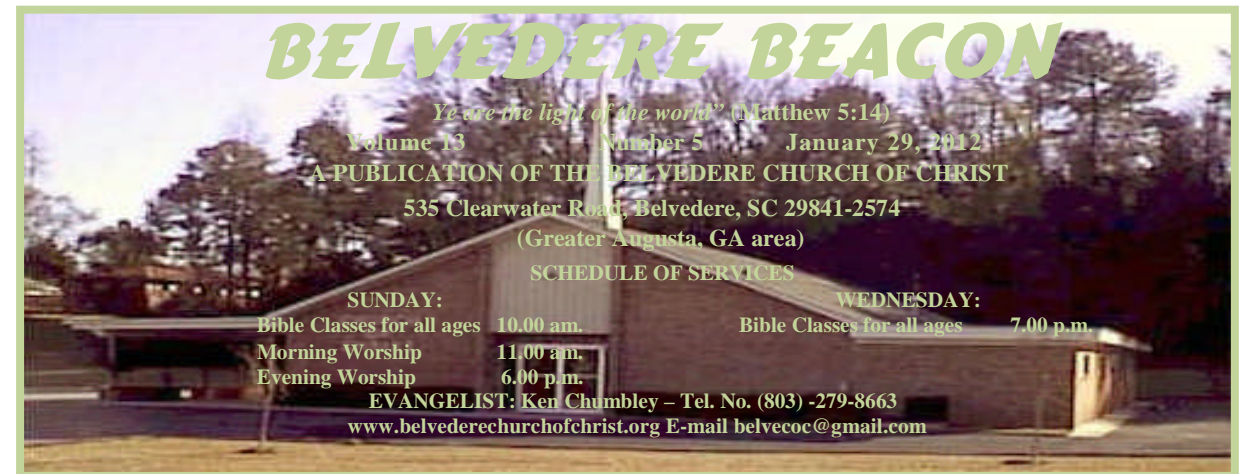
I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

To be crucified with Christ is to turn from sin and the world and live to God. One is crucified with Christ when he is baptized. Only those who have been baptized can say that they have been crucified with Christ. By being crucified with Christ one becomes pleasing to God, so it is desirable.

However, one can turn from the truth and back into the hardening process of sin. When this happens they are said to be “crucify[ing]...the Son of God afresh” (Heb. 6:6). In order to keep this from happening we must follow the exhortation found in Colossians 3:1-2:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

*Bruce Stulting
Huntsville, TX*



BELVEDERE BEACON
Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:
Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am. Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley – Tel. No. (803) -279-8663
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The Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The dye is cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Christ! I will not look back, slow down, let up, back away, or be stilled. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, tame vision, mundane talking, selfish giving, and dwarf goals. I no longer need preeminence, position, prosperity, promotion, platitudes, or popularity.

I do not have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I live by His presence, learn by faith, walk by patience, live by prayer, and labor by power. My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of my enemies, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I will not give up, shut up, or let up until I have stay up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and I am preached up for the cause of Lord.

I am a disciple of Jesus! I must go until He comes, give until I drop, preach until all have heard, and work until He stops me. Then, when he comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me, for my colors will be clear—I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Author Unknown

ATHEISTS TO BUILD TEMPLE

It has recently been announced that some Atheists in the United Kingdom are planning to build a temple in the city of London amid the office buildings in the area. According to reports it will be a 46 meter tall tower (approximately 150 feet) with each centimeter “honoring the earth’s age of 4.6 billion years” with a centimeter equating to one million years. At the base of the tower there is to be a tiny band of gold, a mere millimeter thick, standing for mankind’s time on earth.

The “brains” behind this temple is Alain de Botton who is the author of a new book entitled, “*Religion for Atheists*” which lays out his plans. He asks: “Why should religious people have the most beautiful buildings in the land? It’s time atheists had their own versions of the great churches and cathedrals.” He envisions that this will be the first of a series of temples across the United Kingdom. In his book he argues that Atheists should copy the major religions and put up a network of new architectural masterpieces in the form of temples. He is quoted as saying: “As religions have always known, a beautiful building is an indispensable part of getting your message across. Books alone won’t do it.” He suggests that other atheists, like Richard Dawkins, won’t ever convince people that atheism is an attractive way of looking at life until they provide them with the sort of rituals, buildings, communities and works of art and architecture that religions have always used. He argues that one does not need a god or gods to justify a temple: “You can build a temple to anything that’s positive and good. That could mean: a temple to love, friendship, calm or perspective.”

As we look at these reports, the first thing that comes to mind is whether all atheists will accept that the earth is 4.6 billion years old. Can de Botton prove that figure is accurate? According to scientific method it cannot be done. Furthermore, the evidence of true science, when the faith of Atheists and evolutionists is removed, would show a relatively young earth of just thousands of years, not millions or billions.

When it comes to the matter of a “temple,” the word is defined by Webster’s dictionary as “a building for religious practice.” It has been used in reference to Judaism and its temple in Jerusalem, the first built by Solomon and late rebuilt after the return from captivity with the latest work of restoration done during the reign of King Herod at the time of Christ and which was destroyed in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. It is also used to speak of Hindu and Buddhist places of worship as well as the places of worship of the ancient religions of Rome and Greece. However, the reality is that Atheism has no real object of religion and thus does not need a building for religious practice. To, in any way, classify Atheism as a religion is bogus, as a friend stated this past week: “Declaring Atheism as a religion is like declaring 'not playing football' as a sport.”!

These reports also made me think of the Apostle Paul on Mars Hill, as recorded in Acts 17, where he saw all the temples and altars of the Greek religion and one with the inscription “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.” Let us note what the Apostle had to say on that occasion with reference to temples and to the God who created this world:

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

We need not to look to men or to man-made God, but to the God of heaven, the creator of this world. The God Paul speaks of in Acts 17 and to seek after Him. We need to heed and obey His Word for He calls on “*all men everywhere to repent*” as He desires the salvation of all which He proved in sending His only begotten Son (John 3:16).

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sisters, Leann and Louise Rogers, Tim Smith and Joan Mouton’s mother, Joyce.

Kathy Treadway had severe back pain last Sunday and was unable to be out.

Phil and Debi Evans who have been attending regularly over the past few months have placed their membership with the congregation. Welcome.

A good time was had by all at the fish fry last night. Thanks to Les Culpepper, chief cook, and Glenn Aaron and Michael Farmer assistant cooks for cooking the fish. There was plenty of fish, fixins and desert.

FOUNDATIONS

Every denomination has some doctrines peculiar to itself. These peculiar doctrines are the basis for its existence; upon them it was founded. Without these peculiar doctrines it would have had no excuse, no foundation, for its existence.

Till recent years every denomination tried earnestly and persistently to justify its existence by a constant effort to prove the truthfulness of its doctrines. Both preachers and laymen believed their doctrines, and wanted everybody else to believe them. Their doctrines were preached and debated publicly and privately. If you knew to what church a person belonged, you knew what he believed. But all that sort of thing is changed now. You cannot tell from the label what is on the inside. With few exceptions, the denominations make no decided effort to promulgate their doctrines. As a result, their members know very little about the doctrines of their church. When a church ceases to emphasize the doctrines upon which it was founded, it surrenders all the excuse it might have had for an existence.

We are gravely told that we all agree on the essentials, differing only on the nonessentials. But different churches are built not on points of agreement, but on points of disagreement—on doctrines concerning which they differ. It amounts to this: Different denominations are built on doctrines that they confess are nonessentials.

I raise this question: How can you build an essential church upon a nonessential foundation? If these doctrines about which they differ are nonessential, then a church that is built to propagate these doctrines has a nonessential mission—a nonessential church, built on a nonessential foundation, with a nonessential mission.

R. L. Whiteside
Deceased