

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE BIBLE?

Truly there is no book like the inspired word of God! Its contents have been microscopically attacked as no other book. Many have thought they could rid the world of this Sacred volume by literally burning it; others have belittled and ridiculed the book Divine in an effort to destroy its life changing message, yet it has endured! Jesus said of God's word: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35). Peter too emphasized the indestructibility of God's word. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:23-25). The Bible is the vehicle, the only vehicle, God uses to convict and convert lost souls (Mark 16:15-6; Acts 2; Rom. 10:9-17), and it furnishes spiritual food for the Christian's growth (1 Peter 2:2). Therefore, when one refuses to study the Bible or when one rejects any or all of the inspired word of God, they are cutting themselves off from God's only source of communication to man!

There are many differences between the Lord's church, the church of Christ, and the denominational world. However, the one area around which everything revolves is our attitude towards the word of God! Faithful brethren have always viewed the Bible in the following light:

The inspired word of God "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, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Containing everything man needs for salvation "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Pet. 1:3).

Authoritative "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord. Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17).

The final revelation to man "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it Was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints"(Jude'3).

It will judge us at the last day "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge burr in the-last day" (Tan 12:48).

How one views the Bible determines how he lives! If one does not believe the above five points, they will live a totally different life than one who does. Brother Robert R. Taylor, Jr. made the following observation regarding the word of God. "The Bible is a book of foundations, faith, and facts. Upon it we build; in it we possess confidence; toward it we accept its factual material as true" (*Ripley Beacon* "God is Faithful," Vol. 30, No. 8, Oct. 5, 2003). Observe carefully; when any or all of the five supporting pillars previously mentioned are removed, liberalism will quickly invade the church! The diligent student will observe that many will declare they believe the Bible is inspired; supplies man's every need, but do not accept it as authoritative. It is extremely important to remember when one rejects any part of God's word they are rejecting God (John 12:48)! One, therefore, either accepts all of God's word or none of it!

Remember, the possibility of apostasy is always one generation away! A question of paramount importance is now before us: "Will this generation be responsible for leading the Lord's church into the wilderness of sin.? The answer, in great measure; depends on how they view the Bible!

—selected

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

Volume 9 Number 22 June 1, 2008
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST

535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

(Greater Augusta, GA area)

"IF..., THEN WAY...?"

The following are a list of questions that demand better answers than some are giving today. Give them some thought.

If the proclamation of the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, **Then why** are some calling for shorter sermons and more entertainment?

If the church is the spiritual family of God, **Then why** would it allow a worldly, secular society, which knows little to nothing about true spirituality, determine how we worship God and do our work in his kingdom?

If without coming to a knowledge of Christ, people will be eternally lost, **Then why** aren't some Christians doing more to tell people about Jesus?

If we are only to think on things that are pure, honest, lovely..., **Then why** do some Christians watch some of the things they watch on FV or at the movies?

If God is truly first in one's life, **Then why** would one choose to miss any of the assemblies of the church?

If the function of worship is to please God, **Then why** do some seem so preoccupied with gearing worship services to please men?

If prayer really is effective and powerful, **Then why** don't some Christians pray more than they do?

If denominationalism is sinful, **Then why** is there growing acceptance of these bodies rather than a warning against them?

If we can have security and assurance of our salvation in Christ, **Then why** do some live and worry as though they have no security or assurance.

If God will not tolerate or accept churches that are filled with members who persist in sin, **Then why** will some of God's people?

If we are trying to teach our children that their spiritual welfare is the most important thing in life, **Then why** don't some, through their actions, demonstrate this?

If we are in love with God, and the Bible is God's love letter to us, **Then why** haven't some of us even once read this love letter in its entirety?

If some of these questions hit home, **Then why** don't you determine to do something about your situation?

—selected

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

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Paul warns against self-commendation. He states that those who are caught up in this practice are those who measure themselves by themselves, and who compare themselves among themselves: *“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Cor. 10:12).* “Men who commend themselves, having nothing but themselves with which to measure themselves, can only end by boasting immeasurably...They who so measure them selves are foolish. Wisdom tests all things by the will of God. The only wise way is to lose confidence in self, and earnestly seek the standard God has given” —David Lipscomb.

True wisdom is to walk humbly by the “rule” (standard) of God—His word. We are all to “walk by the same rule” (Phil. 3:16), and not simply to be concerned with being better than others, or no worse than others. The Son of God is the One to Whom we are to look for guidance, strength, and salvation. *“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, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1-2).*

We are not to measure ourselves according to people’s standards, not even that of members of the church. Our goal should be to do that which is right in the Lord's eyes and not men. To compare ourselves with others is a trap and Satan will destroy us in it. Rather, let us resist him and submit to God (Jas. 4:7-8). By so doing, we will be like Jesus and strive to: *“do always those things that please him,”* our heavenly Father (Jn. 8:29b). We are to obey the word of Jesus Christ our Example and High Priest (Rom. 1:16; Jn. 14:15; 1 Pet. 2:21; Heb. 3:1; 4:14). This is the only way we can follow Him. The New Testament, the doctrine of Christ, is to be our pattern (2 Jno. 9; 2 Tim. 1:13; Matt. 26:28). Some of the Corinthians were in danger of “being corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (cf. 2 Cor. 11:1-3), in that their loyalties to Him were being divided. Let us have the “simplicity” in Christ Jesus by being devoted to Him. Let Jesus be our standard—not men!

*Danny Douglas
Dresden, TN*

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Kathy Treadway’s mother is not doing well. Please keep her and Kathy in your prayers.

Graham Moulton is doing a little better at the time of writing and has taken some food and drink and been able to speak, albeit short conversations, with Joan.

Congratulations to Jennifer Wilson on her graduation from John S. Davidson Fine Arts School in Augusta on Wednesday afternoon.

Ken Chumbley is in Dresden, TN holding a Gospel Meeting where Danny Douglas preaches. He is scheduled to return home Friday. Please keep him and the meeting in your prayers.

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

Whenever I am troubled
And lost in deep despair,
I bundle all my troubles up
And go to God in prayer.

I tell Him I am heartsick
And lost and lonely, too,
That my mind is deeply burdened
And I don't know what to do.

But I know He stilled the tempest
And calmed the angry sea,
And I humbly ask if in His love
He'll do the same for me.

And then I just keep quiet
And think only thoughts of peace,
And if I abide in stillness,
My restless murmurings cease.

...Selected

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and shake with the swelling thereof." (Psalm 46:1-3)