

# THE WORLD REFUSES TO LISTEN

I heard it again this very morning: “we should be thankful for the many different faiths in the world.” This is one of the many similar statements which have been made since I can remember. It goes along with the statement: “it does not matter what a person believes, just as long as he is sincere.” All this sounds real nice and makes a person “feel good” about himself, but is it the Truth which God has given us? Can we place our trust and confidence and salvation in it? Each of us has at least one copy of God’s Holy Word available to us, so let us see how that idea compares with what God wants for the world which He created for his glory and pleasure.

Do you have a love for the Truth of God? The Bible shows what HE said, and what HE wants. This is not just one man’s opinion or interpretation. Common words with which we are familiar will be used, as recorded in Scripture. How you respond to it will show your real self and will answer that question. Remember, Jesus said “*if you love me, keep my commandments*” (John 14:15). For those who do not love the Truth of God, listen to what He said: “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness*” (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Paul said almost the same thing in Romans: “*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient*” (Rom. 1:28).

It is vital that we love and receive the Truth in order to be saved. But, God will not force anyone to do different than what their heart is set on doing. We still have a free choice and what we do in life determines our judgment. For the most part, the world is going full speed against what God wants. Jesus told us that in the story of the many who would be on that broad, easy road and the few who would be on that narrow road which leads to life eternal (Matt. 7:13-15). He concluded that story, warning of false prophets which would come to deceive many. Well, they came and are still coming and deceiving many today. So, we must have a love for the truth of God first and foremost, or we may be deceived also. Now, let us turn to the Scriptures and see about the “many faiths” which are in the world today.

The Holy Spirit directed Paul to write for our benefit: “*glory was to be in the church by Jesus Christ*” (Eph 3:21). Notice, “*the church*” is singular—not churches. He said specifically, to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Now, read the next few words. He gave us seven things and said of each: “*there is one*” (Eph. 4:3-6). “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*” Did you see what inspiration said about how many “Faiths” there were? There are just as many Gods and Lords and bodies (churches) (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18) as there are faiths. Now, a big part of the world agrees there is only one God and one Lord, but, they refuse to listen to there being only one faith in the same verses. Why? It all goes back to having the love for the Truth of God or not. Are we going to accept what God said, or will we give heed to what false prophets have said and continue saying? In order for us to be saved, we must submit to that one faith, obey it and be part of that one body. “*It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps*” (Jer. 10:23). Why not determine now to learn and love the Word of God, accept and obey it? It will be our judge on that last day (John 12:48).

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**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
*Ye are the light of the world* (Matthew 5:14)  
Volume 10 Number 21 May 31, 2009  
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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(Greater Augusta, GA area)  
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SUNDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am.  
Morning Worship 11:00 am.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
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## “ANIMAL RIGHTS” EXTREMES

Sadistic people visit cruel and senseless suffering on lower animal forms. Accordingly, there is a place for a voice against such. As is often the case, however, that which is good in moderation becomes bad when carried to an extreme. This has happened in the “animal rights” movement. Those controlling the movement are lobbying and picketing (and sometimes using violence) against fur coat manufacturers and wearers and medical experimentation on animals. Consider some observations concerning this extreme:

1. It in effect places lower forms of life on the same level as human beings. (Of course, one must conclude that they are equals if he assumes that evolution explains the existence of all life forms.) If a researcher started experimenting on human beings instead of white mice or guinea pigs, he would be carried off in a straight jacket, but his practice would be consistent with the premise of the “animal rights” activists.
2. Where does the activist stop? If we let him take experiments on animals away from us, what does he suggest in their place? (Will he offer himself in place of a rat?) If he gets so upset over a fur coats that he maliciously pours paint on them while being worn by their owners, will he tolerate a plain leather coat? If he denies us a leather coat, must he not also deny us our belts, shoes, and purses? Where does he stop?
3. There are some implications concerning abortion. Amazingly, the same activist who works himself into a frenzy over preserving a Tennessee snail darter, an unhatched eaglet, or a whale will often be found screaming for a woman’s “right” to murder her own offspring in her womb. By what warped, twisted, perverted, insane logic such can happen I am unable to comprehend, but such occurs every day in our confused age.
4. What does God’s Word say about “animal rights” and man’s place in the animal hierarchy? First, the very order of creation shows that man is the crowning achievement of God’s creation (Gen. 1:26). Second, God gave man dominion over all other life forms (Gen. 1:27; 9:2-3). Third, God was the first to make clothing for humans out of animal skins (it must not be too awful) (Gen. 3:21). Fourth, the Bible clearly distinguishes between men and “brute beasts” (2 Pet. 2:12; Jude 10). Fifth, Jesus said that one man is worth more than many sparrows (Mat. 10:31).

We should not inflict unnecessary, purposeless cruelty upon the lower forms. However, God created us as masters of them and made them to serve our needs. Let us not be driven from this sensible position by radical and extreme elements.

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GUEST EDITORIAL:  
ABUSING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In looking into 1 Corinthians 11, we have these words from the apostle to help us see Corinth's condition as regards to worship:

1. Coming together for the worse (v. 17).
2. Coming together in a divided state (v. 18).
3. Coming together with an allegiance to men (v. 19).
4. Coming together with no thought as to the significance of the supper (v. 20).
5. Coming together in mixing their common meal items in with worship (vv. 21-22).
6. Coming together with no discernment of the body of the Lord, and thus their participation was in an unworthy manner (vv. 27-29).

The apostle indicates a great spiritual sickness in their midst, with some of them actually "in death" (v.30). The wonderful privilege of worship was being abused, perverted and mishandled. We must continually examine ourselves (II Cor. 13:5), in this and in every way, that we insure that our worship will be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

But we want to speak of the abuse of the Lord's Supper in our own time, and in some particular ways wherein we should now stop and examine ourselves with a determination to improve. We make mention of these points regarding the abuse just noted:

1. **We abuse the Lord's Supper when there is no anticipation of worship.** The Christian is a worshipper, and worship is to be a great and continual part of his life. Yes, "exhort one another" (Heb. 10:25). The Supper is mentioned as a rallying cause of the saints on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). If the Supper is meaningless to us as we think of it, and as we approach the observance of it, it will be meaningless as we partake as well.
2. **We abuse the Supper if we have the view that "this is all that matters."** There are five avenues of worship, and if five are necessary, then all five are important. There has been too much of an attitude that says, "Just so I get the Lord's Supper!" For all its importance, it is not ALL IMPORTANT! It is fruitless to be half-hearted in all other worship, and then to try to be of a spiritual mind when it is time to observe the Supper.
3. **We abuse the Supper if we think that observance somehow makes up for the time misspent in sin, indifference and carelessness.** Not one word is said in the New Testament about the Lord's Supper affecting "cleansing" for the disobedient child of God! If he is unfaithful to God, he is in no better position to partake of the Lord's Supper than he is to sing or pray. Without making proper correction in life, he only adds sin to sin in going through the motions of Lord's Supper observance.
4. **We abuse the Supper if we so spend the week or weekend in fun and games, perhaps on vacation, and just barely squeeze in time to make a service, arriving late and nearly to the point of exhaustion, and we do manage to "get the Supper."** Body and mind in such shape for worship is needed to worship "in spirit" — with spirit and understanding (I Cor. 14:15). It is an abuse of all worship, and not just the Supper, when I can BARELY find an hour to give to God!
5. **Finally, one of the most flagrant abuses is on the part of those who willfully absent themselves on Sunday mornings, and then will rise to partake on Sunday evenings as if some matter beyond their control blocked them that morning.** We know that sicknesses and emergencies arise, but we are thinking of the *willful absence*, and then the Sunday evening partaking, as if God would subsidize the negligence. This is an abuse of the purpose and intent of the Lord's Supper — a memorial with significance for Spiritual people!

May we examine ourselves in this avenue of worship, and in all others, that we will truly worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), and that our coming together be for The Better! (I Cor. 11:17).

Bill Jackson  
Deceased.

(Editorial comment: These words from the late brother Jackson should be kept in mind as regards to the Lord's Supper that we partake in a worthy manner (I Corinthians 11:27 – K.J. C.)

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 who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith.

We extend our sympathy to the Wilsons in the passing of Janice's aunt last Sunday in West Georgia.

The Wilsons went to Carrollton, Georgia Sunday afternoon, to be with the family, and were not able to be back for Sunday evening.

Cynthia Wilson has gone to M.I. T. to begin her graduate studies. Ron took her Wednesday. We pray that she will do well in school and remain faithful to the Lord.

The Arnolds have had sick children this past week.

We will have a cookout on June 27 – Hamburgers, hot dogs and trimmings. Also on July 11 we will have a low country boil. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate.

## Use the Tide

An old gentleman states that when he was a small boy, he lived on the coast. One morning after a great storm he saw an old ship stranded. The storm had blown her in, and she was badly damaged and deserted by her crew. He said that often, when the tide would come in strongly and surround the old ship, she would almost be loosed from her moorings and go out. He stated that often he would go and stand by her and hope she would go out. He would say, "Go out, old ship; go out with the tide." But she never did. Finally, one morning after a severe storm he went down to look at the old ship, but the storm had blown her to pieces. Only the floating pieces of the old wreck were to be seen. She had many an opportunity, but she never went out.

How like many a backslider! The tide of opportunity to repent has risen for many and it is hoped they would go out from their sinful ways, but they settled back and never went out. Friends, if we are not living as we should we had better take advantage of the opportunity to repent while the tide is in. Jesus said: "*I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*" (Luke 13:3). Remember: "*I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (II Cor. 6:2). Friends, now is the only time we are guaranteed—for the tide may soon be out. Think About It!

Author Unknown