

“THERE’S A GREAT DAY COMING ”

The Bible teaches that Jesus will “come again” (John 14:3) to receive those who have been faithful to Him. Jesus told His apostles that He would return “in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). Jesus will not set foot on earth; everyone will be received “in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air” (1 The. 4:17). Gathered in the air, “every knee shall bow...and every tongue shall confess to God” (Rom. 14:11) and “He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). The prophet Joel referred to it as “the Great and the Terrible Day of the LORD” (Joel 2:31). According to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, the Day of Judgment will be great in regards to magnitude and extent, in intensity, in sound, and in importance. The Last Day will be terrible in the sense that the events will inspire reverence, astonishment, and awe in some, while in others, it will instill fear and dread. There’s a Great Day coming, and the Bible gives us insight into what will make it so “great.”

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN GRANDEUR.

The inspired Paul states, “the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 The. 4:16-17). The eyes of man have never seen the grand spectacle that awaits us on the Last Day. It is a day that is circled on no one’s calendar, for it will “come as a thief in the night” (2 Pet. 3:10). Those who are in the grave will be resurrected and those who are yet alive will have their bodies changed “in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:52). Every eye will see Jesus in the clouds and every ear will hear the trump of God. No doubt, it will be the greatest event ever witnessed by man.

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN SCOPE.

God says that, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10, emphasis B.G.). Every human who has ever lived will participate in this Great and Terrible Day. No other event in history can compare to the greatness in scope of the Great Day of Judgment. Not only will all humans be involved, the earth and all else that remains will be affected as well. We are told that “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). Without controversy, this will also add to the grandeur of that Great Day. On this Day, everything will change and all that exists will be affected.

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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.
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“PLAYING FOR KEEPS”

In the thirties and forties playing with marbles was quite prevalent among young boys of the preschool through grade school ages. Two kinds of marbles were used. These were the shooter or taws and the play marbles, also called mibs or kimmies. Ordinarily a shooter was no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. These were made of glass, baked clay, steel, onyx, and agate. Some were later made out of plastic. Larger marbles known as taws and steel ball bearings were sometimes used as shooters. But the steel balls were often outlawed by the players. This was because they often broke glass marbles. The proper way to shoot the taws is to hold the shooting hand firmly on the ground. The marble is held between the first joint of the thumb and near the tip of the forefinger. Taking aim at a play marble, the thumb propels the shooter forward. Play marbles were often named as they appeared, such as ringers, cloudies, and flints.

In playing with marbles you either played “for fun” or “for keeps.” Usually the older boys would win all the marbles of those younger than them. Many would consider children “playing for keeps” with marbles as a harmless activity. But, in reality, it is a form of gambling as is flipping coins to see who will pay for the soda pops. When young people grow up participating in such forms of gambling they usually have no scruples against participating in other forms of gambling. It is not the amount involved but rather the principle.

Gambling is playing at any game of chance for stakes. The stake wagered in a game may be either money or anything of acceptable value by those participating. Each person involved puts up a wager in which he or she might lose. Gambling is taking unnecessary chances or risks. However, not all chances are gambling. For example, the growing of vegetables and fruits is essential to the survival of the human race. Therefore, those attempting to grow such crops take certain necessary calculated risks.

There are many reasons why gambling is sinful. We will sum up with two. First, it violates what is known as the Golden Rule in which we paraphrase: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mat. 7:12; Luke 6:31). Second, it is a form of covetousness. The apostle Paul declared: “I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel” (Acts 20:33). Also, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:10).

Dub Mowery
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“GREAT COMMUNION”

In the November 2009 issue of *Christian Chronicle* there is an article entitled: “Restoration Movement branches observe Great Communion.” It tell of an event that took place on October 4, 2009 at about 35 sites across the nation and least two International venues, according to the article. The article states: “...some members of three faith groups with roots in the American Restoration Movement – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Church/Churches of Christ (Instrumental) and a capella Churches of Christ – me together for Great Communion Sunday. Patrick Mead from the Rochester, MI Church of Christ stated: “About 450 people attended the Great Communion service with an elder from each fellowship presiding over the Lord’s Supper.” Stan Helton from the Tammany Oaks church in Mandeville, LA stated: “Everyone was uncomfortable with something in the service but there was a warm spirit of hope and fellowship – and you could just feel the desire for greater unity in the air.” How does one “feel” a “desire for greater unity.” Is that some “warm and fuzzy feeling”? It is certainly not what the Scriptures teach.

What is wrong with this picture. First, where do they get the idea of a “Great Communion”? The Bible speaks of Christians meeting together upon the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). Paul refers to the breaking of bread as being a communion (I Corinthians 10:16) but nowhere do the Scriptures speak of a “Great Communion” as a special event, as noted in this report.

One of the meanings of communion is fellowship. Thus, what we have here is three religious groups coming together in fellowship. Is God pleased with this? Well, when we look at the three groups mentioned, there is a lot of difference in doctrine. Many in the Christian Church (Disciples) no longer accept the verbal inspiration of Scripture, they accept the unimmersed as members and they regard themselves as a full-fledged denomination. The Christian Church/Churches of Christ (Instrumental) as the name implies uses instrumental music in the worship, many now accept the false doctrine of premillennialism and many accept into membership those who have been immersed by denominations that teach one is saved before baptism. Yet some, who claim to be Churches of Christ consider it acceptable to have fellowship with these two groups. Does God approve of His people being in fellowship with those who teach different doctrines? The answer from scripture is a resounding, “No.”

Faithful Christians are not to fellowship the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11), We are to mark them and withdraw ourselves from fellowship with them (Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:16). Also John teaches: “ *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*” (II John 9-11).

How sad when brethren apostatize from the truth and them fellowship those who do not teach the truth. They might as well go ahead and fellowship all the denominations with their desire for “unity in diversity” or unity in error.

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, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith. Myrtle Grimsley continues to recuperate at her daughter’s. She thanks everyone for their prayers.

Lanny Niver is still having serious back problems and would appreciate prayers.

Rachel Fitzpatrick has been to Hawaii for a cruise with her mother and sister. They got in late last Sunday night.

The next fellowship meal will be Saturday, November 21. Les Culpepper will be fixing Catfish nuggets and hush puppies. Those who want to fix additional things are invited to do so. We plan to start about 3.00 p.m.

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“IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN JOY, IF WE HAVE BEEN OBEDIENT.

No greater joy can exist than that of knowing that we will spend the rest of eternity in Heaven with God, His Christ, the Holy Spirit, and every faithful saint who has ever lived. The joy that awaits the faithful Christian is expressed by Jesus, “blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth...that they may rest from their labours” (Rev. 14:3). What greater joy can one imagine than that of receiving “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” (2 Tim. 4:8)? Those who love God and keep His commands (John 14:15), will hear Jesus say, “well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the **joy** of thy Lord” (Mat. 25:21, emphasis B.G.).

IT WILL BE “GREAT” IN TERROR FOR THE DISOBEDIENT.

Sadly, for those who “know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (2 The. 1:8-9), shall be a most dreadful Day. As joyful as the Great Day of the Lord will be for the faithful few (cf. Mat. 7:13-14), it will be just as terrible and frightening for those who are not obedient God.

The “Great and the Terrible Day of the LORD” is coming. When? No one on earth knows. Heaven is a place prepared by Jesus for those who are willing to prepare themselves go (John 14:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:10). “Are you ready for that Day to come?”

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