

## “BE TOLERANT,” THEY SAY!

At every turn we hear someone say that we should be more tolerant with people of different “faiths.” Some say, “I have my faith and you have yours, and it doesn’t really matter what we believe as long as we are sincere and are doing the best we can.” Now let me ask you, does that from God the Father, where did it come from? The answer is obvious—those false teachings came from the minds of men and will lead to destruction. Let’s look at some Scripture which came from the mind of God, for our profit. It is the power with which God chose to save mankind, if he would only believe and obey it. It is called “the Gospel of Christ,” “the faith, for which we are to contend earnestly (Jude 3; Rom. 1:16-17).

Jesus came to the Earth from Heaven to do the will of God, the Father. He brought salvation to all those who would believe and obey Him. While here, He did many mighty miracles to prove (confirm) the Old Testament Scriptures which had spoken of him through the prophets and to prove He was the Son of God (John 30:20-21). He went to the cross to make it possible for our sins to be forgiven, so we could have fellowship with God and have the hope of eternal life with Him for eternity. Before He ascended back to Heaven, He gave charge to his apostles: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16: 15-16). If you notice carefully, he used the word the before the word Gospel. In all of His teachings, He stressed the oneness of the Gospel, providing for the one way to Heaven. There was no choice of “other gospels” to believe and obey. Those people who say, “be tolerant” with other “faiths” are trying to teach “another gospel.” Consider what Paul warned about this:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed (Gal. 1: 6-9).

Jesus taught us there is one sheepfold and that he is “the way, the truth and the life, and no man cometh to the Father but by me” (John 10:1; 14:6). He said that those trying to come into it any other way were thieves and robbers. He said through the apostle Paul that ravaging wolves would arise from among themselves to draw away followers, not sparing the flock (Acts 20:29-30). The Holy Spirit warned about the coming of “false teachers” who would come in to deceive many (1 Tim. 4:1). In reality, the false teachers are the same as the “ravaging wolves” (Mat. 7:15). How much toleration should we have for such? Do we take pity on them and let them

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**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
*Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)*  
Volume 10      Number 36      September 6, 2009  
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574  
(Greater Augusta, GA area)

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

<b>SUNDAY:</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	
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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## THE SANDWICH GENERATION

A sandwich is quick, easy to make, with little or no cleanup. It’s convenient and fast. It’s for the hurry-up crowd, the 30 minute lunch bunch. It’s the way we are...in a hurry. The sandwich culture wants everything immediately, if not sooner. I saw two men leave a restaurant because they had to wait two minutes on a sandwich!

This attitude comes into the church as well. We want our services, quickly made, at the last minute. We don’t care about making preparations beforehand. We want the preacher’s part to be just right, not too long, not too dry. We want him to be juicy and humorous, full of depth and, oh, so understandable. For sure, he better finish before the other churches do, so the good members can be first in line for a more important meal, at the local restaurant.

Extra words at the Lord’s table? No! “Just the facts, man,” (to borrow and modify a phrase). Wordy prayers? Well, you know, “For a prayer to be heavenly, it doesn’t have to be eternal,” we always say. Our services come neatly boxed, concisely made, just like a sandwich. What’s more, we “sandwich” in the church’s activities when it’s convenient, to fit our schedule. A weekend away from the home church, for some, is a weekend away from church attendance. It’s just not convenient! If it doesn’t fit in, then we just forget about it. Relatives, meal preparation (ironically), TV schedules, and rest cycles, replace “inconvenient” worship services.

The service I hear described in the Bible is much more than a quick hurry-up sort of affair. It’s more than just a sandwich, easily made and easily consumed (Read Matthew 7:13-14; Mark 8:34; Romans 12:1).

Convenient? Easy? Not the Christian life I read about in the Bible. Many of the “sandwich generation” will be sorely mistaken and eternally distressed that their religion of convenience has given them a false hope of heaven. There will not be a fast food entrance there...there will be no curbside check-in. Time will no longer be of essence, for time will have been suspended. Take time for the Lord today, and you won’t be disappointed. Do a hurry-up job, have a convenient for me attitude, abbreviate the essentials, and you will have an inferior product, unacceptable to the Lord.

*Selected*

## **FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER LEAVES HIS DENOMINATION**

You may have heard that former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, severed his 60-year ties to the South Baptist Convention earlier this year. In an article that appeared in the British paper, *The Observer* on July 12, under the headline: “The Words of God do not justify cruelty to women” stated the reason for his action. He accused the Baptist denomination of subjugating women and attempting to justify it with “a few carefully selected Bible verses.”

Former President Carter stated that his decision was “painful” and “difficult”, but was “unavoidable” after the Southern Baptist Convention ruled that women could not become deacons, pastors, or chaplains in the military. Carter stated that this ruling was “in conflict with his belief — confirmed in the Holy Scriptures — that we are all equal in the eyes of God.”

The former President’s mistake is the same mistake made by Korah, Dathan, Abriam, and On (Numbers 16:1-3), and it also the same mistake that many of are making today. *The mistake that we are talking about is that “Equal standing is equivalent to equal responsibility.”*

Korah argued that since the entire congregation was holy (Numbers 16:3), then everyone should have the same responsibility or role. Likewise, I hear people quoting the equality of men and woman per Galatians 3:23, then concluding that they have equal responsibilities. While the premise is true, the conclusion does not follow. Just read what happened to Korah and his companions. Yes, all the congregation of Israel was holy, yet that did not remove the role distinction between the congregation and Moses. Likewise women and men are equally holy, and valued in the Kingdom of God. Yet, that does not remove the God-given, gender-based, role distinctions affirmed in Scripture (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

What former President Carter doesn’t seem to understand, and what Korah didn’t seem to understand is that their respective rebellions are not against the Southern Baptist Convention or Moses, but are actually rebellions against God (Numbers 16:11).

It wasn’t the Southern Baptist Convention who said, “Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence” (I Timothy 2:11-12).

Let us examine God’s Word and find the truth and apply it even though it might not be “politically correct.” Remember it is the Lord’s Word that will judge us (John 12:48) not the ideas and whims of men and women.

*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, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Noah Arnold fell down the stairs late Sunday afternoon fortunately and as a result the Arnolds and Kathy Treadway were unable to make it back in Sunday night. Fortunately, Noah is doing fine except for some bruises.

The Wilsons were planning to be out of town this weekend.

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destroy a few sheep before we say, “enough”? Regarding these issues, we see what the apostle

Paul did: “To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:5). False teachers who came in privily were not excused even for one hour, that the Truth would not be contaminated with their false doctrines.

It must have been very important to Paul that pure doctrine which he had delivered was not to be contaminated- with error.- That same doctrine he taught in all the (Acts 20:31). Paul pleads with us to have the same mind that Christ had (Phi. 2:5). How tolerant was our Savior when he encountered false teachers? They were dealt with immediately to maintain the purity of the gospel of Christ, which was once for all time delivered to us. When we allow even a small amount of the “leaven” of error to remain mixed with the Gospel, it no longer is the power of God to save mankind.

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