

GUEST EDITORIAL:

A visitor to our Country has had a great deal of press. His name is Joseph Alois Ratzinger, and goes by the title of Pope Benedict XVI. Our President, Mr. Bush, greeted him with the words of "holy father." President Bush should know the Bible better than he does. In addition, Mr. Ratzinger should know the Bible better than he does, for he accepted the words, holy father, applied to him. Yet, our Lord said, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9).

The Catholic Church accepts Peter as their first pope, from what I understand. If that is the case, it would seem that they would follow the actions of Peter when put in a similar situation. Peter came to the house of a man by the name of Cornelius. When Peter came in, "...Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him" (Acts 10:25). Peter's actions were such that left no doubt that Peter was not to be worshipped. Peter "...took him (Cornelius) up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man" (Acts 10:26).

Mr. Ratzinger, as one paper reports, urged his listeners to "use the blessings of freedom" and "build a future of hope." (Had he been listening to Senator Barrack Obama?) The "blessings of freedom" have not always been available to members of the Catholic Church. The idea of the Bible being chained to the pulpit, was still around when I was just a young man. For many members, even with the "blessings of freedom," a closed Bible is satisfactory to them. Our Country allows "the blessings of freedom;" many countries do not. We, as members of the body of Christ, should urge people to us "the blessings of freedom" to open their eyes and their Bibles to the truth of God's Word! If they would, there would not be a "holy father." Our President would not be welcoming a person that goes by the title of Pope Benedict XVI. But, alas, as Paul quoted Isaiah, "Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: 27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Acts 28:26-27).

Mr. Ratzinger urged his listeners to "build a future of hope." However, if people continue following this man and his religion, what kind of hope will they have? Do they have hope of heaven? Do they have the hope of Jesus confessing them before His Father? Do they have hope that they will be will all the redeemed? Peter wrote of this, "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (2 Peter 2:17-19). The only way that one can "build a future of hope" is by reading, studying, and obeying the Bible. Did Mr. Ratzinger emphasize this in his travels in our country?

We can be free, truly free from the burden and bondage of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. We can have a "future of hope" if Christ is our life. The words concerning our Lord and Savior ring loud, "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

Beloved, Jesus said, "My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it" (Luke 8:21). May all of us "hear" and "do" God's word.

Jimmie Z. Gribble
Portsmouth, VA

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lavonne McClish, Ken and Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron' sister who has having health problems and the Moulton family in England. There will be a pot-luck fellowship will follow morning worship today. Plan to stay and eat together. Glenn Aaron continues to recuperate from surgery at home. Let us keep him in our prayers. Sister Grimsley is home but has been ill.

Pam Gossett responded to the invitation Wednesday evening asking for the prayers of church and that she had not been faithful or set a good example.

BY WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAVED?

One of the most fatal, mistakes made in Bible study is not taking all that the Word of God teaches on a certain subject. For example, many of our denominational friends will take one passage on salvation and isolate it from others, making it seem that this is all that the Bible teaches on the subject. They do this with such passages as Romans 11:5-6 on grace and Ephesians 2:8-9 on faith, saying that we are saved by grace alone or by faith only. The truth of the matter is that salvation (forgiveness, justification, redemption, etc)) is attributed to a number of things in the Bible. The following: are a few examples:

1. THE GOSPEL – "...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." (Romans 1:16).
2. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST – "...being now justified by his blood" (Romans 5:9)..
3. THE DEATH OF CHRIST – "...we were reconciled to God by the of: death of his Son..."(Romans 5:10).
4. THE LIFE OF CHRIST – "much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10).
5. OBEDIENCE – "...ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin..." (Romans 6:17-18).
6. WORKS--- "...by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).
7. REPENTANCE – "Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life" (Acts. 11:18).
8. BAPTISM – "...baptism doth also now save us" (I Peter 3:21).
9. HOPE – "For we are saved by hope" (Romans 8:24).
10. ENDURING – "...he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Other things, could be listed, but these should show that, all Bible teaching must be considered to arrive at an understanding of the things involved in man's salvation.

- Copied