

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Alan Blaylock, Mark Davis,
Cole Meador

Prayers
Jon Barry, Mark Davis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Cole Meador

Song Leader
Clay Morris

Prayers
Daniel Allgor, Chris Stinson

Invitation
Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)
Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

“Cast your burden on
the Lord, and he will
sustain you; he will
never permit the
righteous to be moved.”

(Ps 55.22)



Volume XXVIIOctober 30, 2022Issue 43

It Won't Do Any Good!
J.F. Dancer, Jr.

Have you ever closed your mind on a subject? Do you know that when you do that that you put yourself in a position that you cannot learn anything else about it?

You are assuming that you know all there is to know on the topic under consideration. Do you know some people are like that when it comes to talking about the Bible and about religion? They don't want to discuss what they believe or what the Bible teaches. They have learned all they intend to learn and have closed their mind on the subject.

Jesus talked about such people as these in Matthew 13:10-15. Isaiah had spoken of such people years before in Isaiah 6:9-10. Paul found a few people like this in Rome (Acts 28:27). And I am sure that there are still some living in our time. Are you one of them?

Put yourself to the following test and see if you are one of these — if so, please change.

Are you willing to study carefully any subject the Bible teaches?

Do you feel that a study is a waste of time as far as you learning more?

Have you made any changes in your understanding of the Bible in the last five years?

Do you really listen when someone is disagreeing with you on religious matters?

These 4 questions may help us to see if we have closed our eyes to keep from seeing and have hardened our hearts to keep from understanding and making some changes. Let us be willing to study with an open mind.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

Sonny is home but has fluid leaking in his lungs and will likely head to Dallas next week.

Doctrine vs. Doctrines Greg Gwin

Have you ever noticed that when the inspired word makes reference to the teachings of God or Christ, it always uses the word "doctrine" (singular). For example, "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). Or, "showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God" (Titus 2:10).

Contrast this with references to the teachings of men — the Bible typically uses the word "doctrines" (plural). Notice:

"But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7)

"(Which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the

commandments and teachings of men" (Colossians 2:22)

"...paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1)

"Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings" (Hebrews 13:9)

Have you any ideas about why there is this different usage of words in the New Testament? Here's a simple suggestion: God and Jesus have only one doctrine. There is no contradiction. All of the teaching that comes from them is completely harmonious. Men have many doctrines. They are confusing; they do not agree with one another; there is tremendous contradiction.

This easily applied rule can be a great help to us as we seek the truth. If something is from God, it conforms to all other aspects of truth. On the other hand, if we are unable to harmonize something we believe with other things taught in God's word, it should warn us to look deeper — there is a problem with some part of our understanding. It's a simple point, but one that lots of folks need to learn!

It's Not How You Feel Aubrey Belue

Does it "feel good?" Does it feel "right?" If so, today's culture says, "go for it!" Thus, we make "right" what our feelings say it is, rather than what it really is. Somehow, we have

reached the point in contemporary reasoning that most say that one can pursue his individual dream without having to confront the consequences of bad or wrong choices. Believe in God, or not; accept Christ, or not; live morally, or not—to those people, it is all the same. Do what you want to do, what you feel like doing, what you think is right in doing, and God will just set aside HIS rules to approve of you regardless. We confuse civic freedom with divine approval, and so long as it is "legal" (and some are not too "picky" about that), it is seen as acceptable.

The question is, "Is our standing with God determined by our feelings, or by the rule of divine law?" Is it a matter of God's will, or ours? Serious consequences follow the reasoning described above:

It nullifies the Bible as a defining book. In fact, the Bible becomes largely useless, since it can at any point be superseded by one's personal feeling. No doubt we "feel" like it has some value, but it can always be overridden by our feelings. There is no sense of responsibility to conform to its message.

It glorifies human wisdom and authority. The highest court of appeal becomes the human mind and thought, rather than the mind of God. If what I feel is right, even if it contradicts what God teaches in His word, then MY idea is seen as better than His; my authority as greater than His. In so doing we

minimize the greater wisdom and power of an Almighty God.

It results in anarchy and chaos. Rejecting a common source of authority — the written word of God — each becomes his own source. There are as many "rights" as there are people to think them up. No wonder we live in troubled times. No wonder our children are so confused as to morals and religion. Countless competing human ideas bombard them (and us) with equally justifiable claims to what is "right".

It ignores God's place in our universe. He has defined right from wrong, sin from righteousness, truth from error. Any course conflicting with His "law" exacts terrible penalties.

The Truth? The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds, but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God. As we have observed before in this column, it is His world, we eat His bread, drink His water, and breathe His air. In addition to being ill-equipped by nature and inclination to determine "right", we belong to Him, and are obligated to be obedient. Man's way never "fixes" anything important, nor moves us one step toward fellowship with God. This may not be the popular line, but we are interested in TRUTH, not compromise, and all human objections aside, God's word is still TRUE, and His way is still the only way (John 14:6).