

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mark Davis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Clay Morris, Chris Stinson,
Randy Ellis

Prayers
Jon Barry, Alan Blaylock

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leader
Clay Morris

Prayers
Bill Rinehart, Willie Standokes

Invitation
Joseph 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

I cannot conceive of their having ever been a time in all of the history of the church that distinctive preaching was not needed. Perhaps there have been periods of that history in which such preaching was more sorely needed than at other times; but if so, the failure of some to preach a distinctive gospel was responsible for the increase of the need for it. And it may be that there was never a time when the need for distinctive preaching was more imperative than now. We have entirely too much preaching that means nothing, and the need of the hour is for men who have the courage to preach a distinctive message.



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The Truth
Richie Thetford

Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” Whatever the truth may cost (time, money, lands, houses, family, friends, or physical suffering), it is well worth the price; and once obtained, should not be sold for anything.

Truth is Necessary in the Practice of Pure Religion. It matters little what we think, feel, imagine, suppose, or would like to believe; the truth is what counts. Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, bold, convincing; however, he lacked the one thing which all need in order to be successful in preaching - the whole truth. Priscilla and Aquila had to take him aside and explain the way of truth more accurately (Acts 18:24-28).

There Are Many Deceivers in Our Religious World Today. Ephesians 4:14 says: “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” Like people who find themselves victims of professional gamblers, so are the unlearned before the winds of error. Dishonesty and trickery are the name of the game for false teachers. They use an assortment of trickery, craftiness, and deceit to disguise their teaching as divine truth. 4:15 says: “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ.” Let us always be on guard against those who lie in wait to deceive. Continue to speak the truth in love and grow in Christ.

Do Not Ignore Error. Let us not think that by ignoring someone’s error we are being kind to them. The truth, and only the truth, can make us free from the bondage of the traditions and doctrines of men. If anyone has been overtaken by error, let us seek to save them from eternal death (James 5:19-20).

To disregard, neglect, ignore, reject, shun, or deny the truth can prove fatal to our souls.

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.*

Let us have a genuine love for the truth, daily seeking to be thoroughly acquainted with it, for only the truth can make us free, and lead us to the joys of heaven. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'" (John 8:31-32).

TOOLS FOR GROWTH

David Dann

Are you growing spiritually? Christians are expected to grow up in Christ. The apostle Paul wrote of this need in his letter to the church in Ephesus, saying, "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:14-16).

The goal in response to the command should be to put forth the effort to make

real spiritual progress in becoming more and more like Christ. When God gives man a command, He also provides the means necessary in order to fulfill that command. What tools has God provided to help each Christian grow?

1. The written word of God. Paul wrote of the spiritual armor of the Christian, saying, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17). The word of God equips the child of God to combat the forces of wickedness. The apostle Peter writes, "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:1-2). In order to grow spiritually, Christians must strongly desire, and must make use of, the word of God. Christians will not grow without taking time to read, study, and make proper use of God's word. The Scriptures serve as a tool for spiritual growth.

2. The privilege of prayer to God. The ability to approach God in prayer with the expectation of being heard is a privilege reserved for the faithful. Affirming the words of the psalmist, Peter writes, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12). Prayer allows the child of God to communicate his praise, thankfulness, fears, desires, and requests to his Creator. Since this is true, Paul instructs Christians to, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). In order to grow spiritually, Christians must continually make use of the privilege of prayer to God. Christians will not grow without setting aside time to personally approach the God of heaven. Prayer serves as a tool for spiritual growth.

3. The people of God. Paul wrote of the importance of the spiritual relationship shared

between Christians, saying, "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-13). Fellow Christians, are provided by God in order to help the child of God to grow. To the members of the church in Thessalonica, Paul writes, "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing" (1 Thess. 5:11). In order to grow spiritually, Christians must offer one another the help and encouragement that enables each one to be built up and strengthened in the Lord. Christians will not grow while having little or no connection with other faithful children of God. The people of God serve as a tool for spiritual growth.

Conclusion: Peter concludes his second letter to Christians with the following instruction: "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Pet. 3:17-18). In His word, in the privilege of prayer, and in fellow faithful Christians, God has provided the means by which each child of God can grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Are you making use of these tools for growth?

**Are You Prepared?
Alexander Maclaren**

"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having one everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:13-18)

And not only is there courage needed for the application of the principles of conduct which God has given us, but you will never have them handy for swift application unless, in many a quiet hour of silent, solitary, patient meditation you have become familiar with them. The recruit that has to learn on the battle-field how to use his rifle has a good chance of being dead before he has mastered the mysteries of firing. And Christian people that have their Christian principles to dig out of the Bible when the necessity comes, will likely find that the necessity is past before they have completed the excavation. The actual battle-field is no place to learn drill. If a soldier does not know how his sword hangs, and cannot get at it in a moment, he will probably draw it too late.

**Distinctive Preaching
W. Curtis Porter**