

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mark Davis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Bryan Garlock, Chris Stinson,
Randy Ellis

Prayers
Rodney Ellis, Jerry Schnelle

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leader
Clay Morris

Prayers
Chris Stinson, Mark Davis

Invitation
Alan Blaylock

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

Humanistic philosophy has been successful in diverting people away from a high concept of Scripture. But Bernard Ramm wrote, "A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put."



Volume XXVIII

January 8, 2023

Issue 2

Truth and Error: How to Tell the Difference
Steve Klein

We learn about a thing by experiencing it. Babies learn sweet from sour, hot from cold, and wet from dry by experiencing these things. Even so, we learn spiritual truth by experiencing it in God's word, which is truth (John 17:17). Our use of God's word enables us to readily distinguish between truth and error. Haddon Robinson relates the following story that illustrates this point:

A Chinese boy who wanted to learn about jade went to study with a talented old teacher. This gentleman put a piece of the stone into the youth's hand and told him to hold it tight. Then he began to talk of philosophy, men, women, the sun, and almost everything under it. After an hour he took back the stone and sent the boy home. The procedure was repeated for weeks. The boy became frustrated — when would he be told about jade? — but he was too polite to interrupt his venerable teacher. Then one day when the old man put a stone into his hands, the boy cried out instantly, "That's not jade!" (Biblical Preaching, p. 102).

In Hebrews 5:12-14, the inspired writer is addressing Christians who were not mature enough to tell the difference between right and wrong. He admonishes them with these words:

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

There are two words in the text that shed much light on our current topic. The first is the word "unskilled" and it means "inexperienced." The Hebrew Christians had not progressed and developed because they did not have enough experience in the word.

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.*

Gladys is having some health issues.

If you have any announcements, please call or text Bryan.

As a result, they were like children who cannot discern right from left; they were spiritual babes who could not tell right from wrong. The second word to consider is the word "exercised." It comes from the Greek word "gymnazo" from which we get our word "gymnasium" — the place where athletes practice and train. Those who regularly use God's word have their senses trained to "discern both good and evil."

Why is it that some brethren don't seem to be able to identify obvious error when they hear it? Why are so many Christians bogged down in their spiritual lives by moral relativism and compromises with the world? Can we not tell the difference between good and evil? Could the root of the problem be that we have had no meaningful experience with the "word of righteousness"?

My friends, may we this day resolve to hold God's word in our hearts — to study it, meditate on it, and practice it — so that when

we're given something else we will be able to simply exclaim, "That's not truth!"

"Essential" Church Members Greg Gwin

In every healthy congregation you will find certain people that comprise the essential "heart and soul" of the church. Note ...

They are always present at the assemblies. They make it a point to never miss any of the services. If it is necessary to make changes, adjust schedules, suffer inconvenience or simply miss out on other activities, they will do so because they are committed to being present every time the doors are open.

These folks actually look for opportunities to serve. If there is work to be done, Bible classes to be taught, weak members to be encouraged, sick folks to be visited, menial chores to be fulfilled, they will step up and get the job done. They are not waiting to be told what to do. Instead, they are searching for more and more that can be accomplished.

In matters of personal purity and morality, these people are setting a worthy example. They don't look for "loopholes" to justify untoward behavior. Rather they "go the extra mile" to make sure that there is not even an "appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). In the clothes they wear, the language they use, the places they go, the movies and TV they watch, these brethren are determined to do the right thing.

Most surveys indicate that 80% of what is contributed in any church comes from about 20% of the membership. The kind of people we're

describing here are among that 20%. They are truly sacrificial in their giving.

When conflicts arise in the church, these people can be counted on to help make resolution. They are not the sort to get their feelings hurt easily. Instead, they work hard to address situations that — unheeded — could lead to serious division. They stand firmly and without compromise for the truth, they love their brethren, and they care about the church.

More could be said, but the picture is pretty clear. Local churches depend on these members. In fact, without them a congregation will never prosper. Now, the simple question is: Are you one of these "essential" church members? Think!

Fewer See The Bible As The Word Of God Kyle Campbell

The Gallup organization reported in July 2022 that a new high of 29% of Americans say the Bible is a collection of "fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man". In 1980, 10% of Americans felt this way. As you might imagine, the results fell broadly in line with American's religious affiliation. For instance, 16% of people who identify as "Christian" believed that the Bible was mythical and produced man, while 65% of Americans who had no religious affiliation felt this way. The bottom line is belief in the Bible is declining, part of a general pattern of declining religiosity among the American population.

Of course, the Bible itself claims to be from God. Paul, the most prolific writer of the Bible, said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that Scripture

originated with God. In fact, New Testament writers identified the Scriptures with the voice of God (Matthew 19:4-5; Acts 4:24-25; Romans 9:17; Galatians 3:8; Hebrews 3:7).

Beyond the claims, what evidence is there that the Bible could be from God? Can anything be suggested that shows it could be more than "fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man"? Think about these proofs:

Unity: The Bible contains a consistent picture of the nature of God, the nature of man, and the nature of sin. There is a historical continuity to the unfolding of the scheme of redemption; God's plan for saving man runs like a single thread from beginning to the end.

History: No archaeological discovery has ever been made that contradicts historical statements in Scripture.

Foreknowledge: The Bible does contradict some theories held by scientists. However, a conflict between scientific fact and the Bible has never been established.

Prophecy: Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of divine inspiration. God rests His claim to Deity on His ability to predict the future and then to bring it to pass (Isaiah 41:4; 42:9; 44:7; 46:8-11; 48:3-5). He did that beautifully with over 300 prophecies of the Messiah.

Impartiality: A book written by man would seek to minimize the faults of its heroes. This is not the case with the Bible. It deals very frankly with the sins of its figures like David, the apostles, and the churches.