

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

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The Church That Jesus Built

David A. Cox

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In reading this statement that Christ made one must be made to wonder why there are so many different denominations that claim to be following Christ, but are teaching conflicting doctrines. The point is that Jesus did not build many churches, but just one.

Unity Is A Must

The church is the saved body of believers (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 2:47). This body of believers are a part of Christ's church and are to be united. It is not reasonable for us to think for a moment that the members of the this saved body can teach and practice different and conflicting things. In John 17 Jesus prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). Paul writing to the church at Corinth said, "that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This unity is not based on what a group decides its articles of unity will be, but is based on what the word of God teaches. The disciples

of Christ are to be a people of faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and that faith comes from the word of God (Romans 10:17).

Christ Is The Head

The church that Jesus built will have Christ as the head (Ephesians 1:22-23). Many of the denominations today will claim that the head or founder is someone other than Christ. The headquarters will be at a particular location. All of this is evidence that these groups are not of the church that Jesus built, but are groups bound together by a creed, organization, etc.; not on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Speaking The Oracles of God

The church that Jesus built will simply use the inspired word of God as its rule of faith with regard to its practices. Jesus taught the importance of following the word of God when He speaking of the Jews said, "in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). Paul stressed this as well to the church of Galatia, "though we, or angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Those that are a part of the church that Jesus built will abide in the pure gospel and will "speak as the oracles of God" (1

Peter 4:11).

The church that Jesus built and the one he died for and established will follow the word of God, in all that it practices and can be identified from what the Bible teaches about the worship, work and the organization of the church found in the New Testament.

No doubt there is much confusion today about the church that Jesus built, but rest assured that this confusion comes from men and not from God. Let's all determine to search diligently the word of God; practicing and holding to only those things which are right.



A Discouraged Prophet

Glen Young

Elijah was a powerful prophet. He was a rugged individualist, who most likely, had the physique as well. However, his strength was in Jehovah. How else could he have killed the prophets of Baal (about four hundred and fifty) and outrun the chariot of Ahab to Jezreel, except Jehovah was with him (1 Kings 18:40, 46).

Yes, Elijah was a mighty man of God. However, he had his moments of fear and weakness. Once queen Jezebel had heard of her prophets being slain by Elijah, she sent him a message. "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time" (1 Kings 19:2). Now Jezebel was an evil, wicked woman, a spiteful woman, one of them straight razor tote'n kinda women. Elijah knew she was not kidding so he left town in a hurry.

Elijah first traveled into the wilderness a day's journey and sat down under a juniper tree. While sitting there, he became despondent and said, "It is enough; now, O Jehovah, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (1 Kings 19:4). No doubt exhausted, he lay down under the juniper tree to sleep. He was awak-

ened by the touch of an angel of the Lord. There was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. The angel came a second time and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee" (1 Kings 19:7). With the nourishment of this food, he traveled forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of Jehovah.

Elijah's next hideout was in a cave. It was here that Jehovah questioned Elijah as to why he was hiding in that cave. Elijah responded by saying, "I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (1 Kings 19:10).

Have you ever felt that you were the only one who was battling Satan? Upon this occasion, Elijah felt that way. He did not lose his belief in Jehovah. He did not blame Jehovah for his predicament. He simply felt he was the only person left on earth who was trying to serve Jehovah God.

Satan wants you and I to feel as did Elijah. He wants us to become discouraged through a lack of confidence in our brethren. He accomplishes his goal by tempting us to use our tongues as weapons of destruction, gossiping, and backbiting (James 3). He tempts us to place a chip on our shoulder and dare a brother to knock it off (James 1:19-20). He tempts us to assume the worst (evil surmising) about our brethren (1 Timothy 6:4). He tempts us to ignore Romans chapter fourteen keeping issues of personal faith fomenting to the point of erupting into strife and contention that hinders the work of a local church. Is it any wonder that conscientious Christians sometime become discouraged?

The good news is that Christian service is not doom and gloom. Jehovah told Elijah, "Yet will I leave me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18). Though he thought he was alone in the fight for righteousness, Elijah had seven

thousand brethren fighting with him.

If we are looking for God in the great and strong wind, or the mighty earthquake, or the roaring fire, we shall be disappointed. It is in the meek and quite spirit that God does his best work (1 Peter 3:1-4).

You are not alone. Rejoice in your brethren and take courage.

~via *The Rock Creek Bulletin*, Elkhorn City, Kentucky



Habits

Randy Harshbarger

*“Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and **always** keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”* (Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV).

Down through time, philosophers and theologians have debated the meaning of the word “habit.” Aristotle and Augustine spoke of habits that belonged to a person. For example, one might possess a coat that is extremely useful in the wintertime; in the same way, one may possess certain habits that are judged to be virtuous or beneficial. By the longtime practice of a certain action or activity, it can be said that one is in the habit of doing this or that. We speak of good habits and of bad habits. Such things as smoking, or drinking alcohol, or eating too much are judged bad habits. Getting the proper rest, exercising, and eating properly are judged to be good habits.

Mortimer Adler wrote: “The familiar statement that a person does what he is in the habit of doing indicates that a habit is a tendency to a particular sort of behavior” (The Great Ideas: A Lexicon of Western Thought, p. 287). What we do regularly, largely defines who and what we are.

How can we apply this in the spiritual realm?

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11, NKJV). Luke speaks of the Bereans who daily searched the word of God; they were in the regular habit of considering and studying God’s word. Earnest inquiry of truth is a good habit. A deep, serious concern about truth is something each of us needs to cultivate. We need to be in the habit of looking to God’s word as our guide for life. Bible study must become a part of our behavior. The Bereans searched God’s word without prejudice; they were open-minded concerning the things they found. Unwilling to take the word of others, they felt an obligation to search out truth for themselves. Their actions were not rash or impulsive; rather, they calculatingly examined for themselves, what God’s word taught. That is a good habit!

The righteous man finds delight in God’s word, “...And in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:3). That is habit. That is routine. That is dedication. Doing something day and night, or regularly, takes time and effort. But the reward comes, not only now, but for all eternity. Bad habits are hard to break. Good habits require effort before they become a part of who we are. Let us examine God’s word daily. Let us daily turn from sin as we endeavor to walk closer to the Lord. Good habits bind us to the Lord day by day.

~via *Biblicial E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 44.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Scottie Goode’s father, Hubert Goode*, continues in the Huntsville Hospital, room 841... *Signa Skipworth’s step-grandson, Nicholas Woods*, is in the Children’s Hospital in Birmingham following an automobile accident last weekend. He is making gradual progress...*Lou Ann Phillips* was not feeling well this week and not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night...*Buffy Wallen* has been sick

this past week and unable to be services...**Claus and Sanda Martel** have both been sick this past week, but are now doing better...**James Word's sister, Betty Will Rainey**, had stints implanted this past Thursday and is now at home ...**Rodney McCrary's mother, Nadine McCrary**, is in the Florence Comprehensive Care for rehabilitation ... **Glenda Phillips father, Howard Green**, is now home following his rehabilitation in Lawrenceburg ...**Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton**, is at home sick battling cancer ...Remember **Millinea Word** as she continues her treatments/medication ...**Helen Trousdale's neice, Martha Henson**, who is battling cancer ... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out..**Aldeen Noles** is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..**Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead**, is in the Athens Convelesant Center...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ...**Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

OUT OF TOWN: The Rogers: Mike, Tisha, Zachary and Jacob are away in Mississippi this weekend...**The Williams: Ray, Judy and Chase** are in Auburn this weekend visiting with Cori.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group two will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group two remember to meet with your group this evening.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **Centerview church** near Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. They will have a singing this afternoon at 2:30 followed by a service at 4:00. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:30 p.m. **Eddie Caskey** will be the speaker in this meeting.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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