

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Truth in Love
WHBQ-AM 560, Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly
support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Class (Sept. - May) 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We continue to hear so many complimentary comments about our great 40th Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship! These say they have benefitted from the lessons concerning the "Great Bible Portraits of the New Testament." This makes us very happy to hear that so many enjoyed the blessings of the good work of our 28 speakers on this theme. There were people from 12 states, beside those from the Memphis area, in attendance, along with the Schools of Preaching from Memphis and Ft. Worth. Many of them said they were planning to come back next year! It is planned now that our theme for 2016 will be "ETERNAL SECURITY." We believe every member at Getwell worked in some way for the success of the lectureship, and we offer to you our sincere appreciation. To our God we give all the glory.

Though we do not often get to hear other preachers, except in meetings and lectureships, we are told by those who are present at other places that preachers are not "offering the invitation to tell people what to do to be saved." This is very strange to our ears!! The very purpose of preaching is for the purpose of showing the lost how to be saved and to offer the appeal for those who have fallen away from the faith to return. Please check your Bible for the correctness or incorrectness of this next statement: "There is not a completed sermon in the New Testament where men and women were not given this plan of salvation." Jesus died that it might be preached (Lk. 24:46-47). It was in God's eternal purpose to make the gracious plan, and it is given to the church to proclaim it from the house tops! (Eph. 3:8-11, 21). The church of Christ is the fruit of God's wisdom. Let us not fail to give the proper glory to our God.

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

The True Way to Religious Unity? (II)

This writer believes that the reason we do not have religious unity today has to do with a wrong attitude toward the Bible. Many are not convinced that the New Testament is complete (Jas. 1:25), that it is authoritative (II Pet. 1:3), and that it is powerful (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12). This constitutes an improper attitude toward the inspired Scriptures (II Tim. 4:1-4). Too many have the attitude, whether admitted or not, of a young man with whom we spoke for hours about his sinful lifestyle of homosexuality. When asked if he respected the Bible, he responded, "I don't give a hoot about the Bible!" If the Word of God is not the final standard for religious unity, there can be none! Unity, without the New Testament cannot exist (Matt. 17:1-6). Where men add to the Bible their Prayer Books, Disciplines, Catechisms, Book of Mormon, etc., unity does not have the heartbeat of a chance!

Love for the Lord Is the Answer

Jesus states clearly that the path to true unity is to come together in the love of and on the authority of His Word (I Jn. 1:7). That demands that each of us love the Lord more than we love self, kinfolks, or our own opinions (Matt. 10:37). "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15). "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (Jn. 15:14). The churches of Christ in your community agree in these sentiments of the Lord. We have contended for these sentiments through the years, but we have been looked upon by the enemies of the cross as narrow, and sometimes branded as a group of bigots! However, this is still our plea to every honest soul.

The churches of Christ have contended for the principle of New Testament unity through the years. This has not been with the desire to be contentious, but because of the emphatic teaching of the Holy Scriptures. Jesus prayed

for the unity of his followers and gave all who would listen the way it was to be accomplished (Jn. 17:20-21). Unity is good and pleasant! (Psa. 133:1). It is unequivocally commanded (I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-5). Division is condemned with the strongest of language (I Cor. 3:1-3; Rom. 16:17-18; II Thess. 3:6).

The True Way to Religious Unity

We firmly believe that unity can be achieved. But we fear that the biggest obstacle is that many do not want it! Loving the doctrines and practices of men, and loving their places in these divisions, causes many eyes to be closed and hearts hardened (Matt. 13:15-17). We can have true religious unity provided we are willing to recognize the following:

1. Christ as the only Head, Ruler, and Legislator of the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 28:18-19). This would eliminate the Pope and all governing councils, conventions, and synods.
2. The Bible as the only source of religious authority (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3). This would eliminate all divergent standards, as Health With Key To The Scriptures, The Book of Mormon, along with all creeds, manuals, and catechisms. We plead for unity's sake, let us go back to the Bible (I Pet. 4:11).
3. The one body, the church, revealed in the New Testament Scriptures. This is the one that Jesus said He would build (Matt. 16:18), the one which wears His name and to which He adds the saved (Acts 2:47), the one which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). This would eliminate denominational bodies for the body of Christ (Col. 1:18).

True religious unity can be attained!. What a thrilling thought! But we must be guided by the New Testament in matters of doctrine, practice, and worship. Let us cease being divided over things not found in the Book!

RON'S REMINDERS



Great Chapters of the Bible: Exodus 20

Our second installment of the Great Chapters of the Bible comes from Exodus 20. Having left Egypt by crossing the Red Sea on dry ground in Exodus 14, the people of Israel came to Mount Sinai, where God called Moses to the mountain to receive the laws and instructions for the people of Israel.

The chapter begins on an interesting note, with God giving His authority for what follows by introducing Himself as “The Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (20:2). While He has every right to give commandments on His authority as the supreme, holy Creator, God speaks relationally. All the laws to follow would be applicable because He was their God, the God who had redeemed them from slavery. God always gives His commandments from a position of love and care for His people, and we should see His Word not as a list of dos and don’ts from a dictator, but as instructions for a happy, fulfilled life based on His love for us.

On that basis of their relationship, He reveals what we know as the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17. Many have pointed out that the commandments can be divided into two sections—our relationship with God, and our relationship with man. Of course, this makes sense as Jesus listed the two greatest commandments as “Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36-40).

If you love God, you won’t have other gods before Him. We often think of that as making Him number one, but what the word *before* really means there is that we are not to have any other gods in His presence. It’s not a matter of placing Him first above others. It’s about clearing everything else out of the way, eliminating all competition. On that basis, we will resist making graven images, material items that take His place. We will not take His name in vain, using it without meaning, and throwing it into our speech without considering the weight His name brings. And, we will take time to stop our work and play and remember His holiness. For the people of Israel, that meant observing the Sabbath. For us, that means setting aside time for worship, but it should also mean taking personal time for God throughout the week, as well. Having no other gods before Him means clearing out anything that makes us too busy to find time for our God.

The second division of the Ten Commandments, those pertaining to our human relationships, begins with the command to honor your father and mother. This was critical to the people of Israel, because their ability to pass on God’s Law from generation to generation and continue observing it was the condition upon which God would preserve their promised land. Deuteronomy 6 echoes the importance of parents and grandparents instilling honor and obedience into their children. As the UK has shown, and as America will soon find out, it only takes one or two generations before apostasy becomes standard.

After the command to honor parents, we have commandments against murder, adultery, theft, and false witness, followed finally by “You shall not covet.” If you love your neighbor as yourself, you won’t do any of these things. Unfortunately, the people of Israel eventually missed the spirit of these commandments. As Jesus pointed out in the Sermon on the Mount, the people of Israel thought it was fine to hate or lust, as long as murder or adultery were not committed. But that’s why that tenth commandment is so important. God cares about your heart, too.

It doesn’t matter if you don’t do the wrong thing if you really want to do it. God wants not just our actions to be brought under His control, but our desires as well. Murder starts with covetousness in the heart, as James 4:1-2 says. Adultery begins with coveting your neighbor’s wife. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, then, isn’t just about restraining ourselves from doing bad things to them. It’s also about having our hearts in the right place toward them.

We know these Ten Commandments have become the foundation for much of the world’s morality, despite how much some might want to remove them from the public eye. Like Israel, we are God’s people, and we must always see the importance of these specific commandments in our quest to love Him with all we have and love our neighbors as ourselves. After all, He only gives us commandments because He loves us and knows what’s best for us.

—Jack Wilkie
Think, August 2015