

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Truth in Love
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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

The work at Getwell church of Christ continues to center around the commands of the Lord and His great power. Never has there been any help that is equal to the assistance given by the Lord on a daily basis! Prayer is the means of expressing our gratitude and needs to our Heavenly Father. Prayer is the answer to our worries and difficulties in life (Phil. 4:6-7). It is commanded that we pray without ceasing, or to have a regular plan for approaching our Father each day. Jesus is our mediator between us and God. We do not pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit, but Jesus said we should pray to "Our Father who art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9), through Him (Col. 3:16-17; Eph. 5:20). What a privilege and blessing Christians enjoy!

We join with the Psalmist in saying, "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psa. 8:1-9). The Psalmist also states that the Lord "made the heavens, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psa. 33:6, 9). Paul in the New Testament instructs: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves" (Rom. 1:20-24). Let us not become fools in word or in action! (Psa. 14:1).

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

What Is Right and What Is Wrong in Religion?

Many honest souls are searching for what is right and what is wrong in religion. The Bible speaks of “pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father” (Jas. 1:27), and each individual is responsible to search and follow the Scriptures. The reference to pure religion is preceded by the instruction that we are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (Jas. 1:22-25). Hence, to find what is right and what is wrong in religion one must follow the teaching found in the Bible or the authority of Christ (Col. 3:16-17). Jesus asked the question of some Jews who had come to Him questioning His authority, “The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?” (Matt. 21:25). Jesus was emphasizing to them the importance of making sure that what we practice and follow in religion must have the authority of Heaven to be correct and acceptable to God. The Hebrew writer writes, “But without faith it is impossible to please him” (Heb. 11:6). Paul also said that pleasing faith comes from hearing and following God’s Word (Rom. 10:17). Let us then try our religious practices by the authority found in the Word of God, so that we may

know what is right and what is wrong in religion! For instance, is the popular doctrine of “salvation by faith only,” as believed by many, “of heaven, or from men?” Teeming multitudes are placing their eternal hope on this doctrine. They think if the sinner “just trusts in Jesus” or “says the sinner’s prayer” they will be saved without obedience to the Gospel. But Heaven’s authority says, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (Jas. 2:24). The Scriptures are right, and man’s doctrine is false. Others teach and believe that babies can be sprinkled at birth, call it baptism, and that the Lord will approve; or that sprinkling is alright instead of baptism; or that salvation comes before baptism. But the Bible teaches that salvation comes after teaching, repentance, confession, and a burial in water for the remission of sins (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4). “Infant baptism,” “sprinkling for baptism,” and “salvation before baptism” are all doctrines that are of men, not of Heaven! Look closely, dear friends: these are wrong in Heaven’s sight! Is your salvation secure?

RON'S REMINDERS



How Important Are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

by Justin Rogers

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls stands among the greatest archaeological finds of the previous century. From 1947 to 1956 about 930 scrolls were found in 11 caves in Israel near the Jordanian border. The scrolls found at the site of Qumran span four centuries, from the third century B.C. to the first century A.D., and are written in four languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Nabatean.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are important for the study of the Bible in at least three ways. First, they offer Old Testament manuscripts approximately 1,000 years older than we otherwise possess. Although we remain centuries removed from the original books of the Old Testament and we do not possess a complete Hebrew Bible older than the 10th century, the Dead Sea Scrolls offer at least one fragment of every Old Testament book except Esther. The oldest are 4QExod-Lev^f and 4QSam^b, both dating to the mid-third century B.C. The most complete biblical Scroll is the so-called "Great Isaiah Scroll" (1'QIsa^a), which dates to the mid- to late-second century B.C. Even if we cannot compile a complete Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls are a vital witness to the Old Testament text.

Second, the Dead Sea Scrolls provide information about the history of the Old Testament canon. The number of copies we have of certain books, such as Psalms (39) or Deuteronomy (33), point to their canonical

status. In other cases, we observe the authoritative manner in which biblical books are quoted or copied. The Temple Scroll clearly invests Moses with inspired authority, and the reference to "David" as the primary author of Psalms (in 4QMMT) conveys his exalted status. Although these writings are not copies of the Bible, they presuppose the authority of Scripture and inform us that early Jews did not treat the Old Testament as "just another book."

Third, the Dead Sea Scrolls help us better understand Judaism at the time of Jesus. Of the 930 scrolls discovered in the Judean desert, only 222 are biblical (i.e., less than 25 percent). Therefore, the Dead Sea Scrolls consist primarily of non-biblical material. Some of these writings, such as 4QInstruction or the War Scroll, are known only from the Scrolls themselves. Others, such as 1 Enoch or Jubilees, were popular among many Jewish groups at the time of the New Testament. Paul's reference to Jannes and Jambres (2 Timothy 3:8) is paralleled in the Damascus Document, and many themes and characters, such as light versus darkness or Melchizedek, are exemplified by the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls do not answer every question, but they do provide valuable insight into the Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish world of the New Testament.

Justin Rogers teaches graduate and undergraduate Bible classes at Freed-Hardeman University. He may be contacted by email at jrogers@fhu.edu.