

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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Radio Program
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.

WEDNESDAY

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

Volume LVIII

November 13, 2017

Number 42

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We continue to receive many comments about our radio program, "Truth in love." We would appreciate it if you will tell others about the program and invite them to listen each Sunday, 8:00-8:30 a.m., on WHBQ-AM 560. Questions which you think should be discussed on the program are certainly welcomed. We will never know how many are listening on a regular basis who may never enter our building, but we believe there are many. We know the time of the program is when most are getting ready to attend Bible class and Worship, but perhaps you can listen as you prepare. We appreciate the work of brother Charles Shappley, who records and works with the station to produce these programs.

We have listed in the past few weeks some Bible questions to challenge your thinking. The answers to last week's questions are as follows, in the order in which they were listed: (1) John 21:1-14. (2) Absalom (II Samuel 13). (3) Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:6-7). (4) Solomon (I Kings 11:1-3). (5) John the immerser (Matthew 3:4). (6) Elisha (I Kings 19:19; II Kings 2:12-13). Hopefully, you have enjoyed the search.

It is always good to memorize the books of both the Old and New Testaments. If you have not studied these lately, why not begin today? It will help you greatly in searching the Scriptures (John 5:39-40).

Where in the Bible Will I Find The Basics of the Church of Christ?

Gary Colley

The New Testament commands, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15). Peter says further, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . . that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 4:11). Brethren in the churches of Christ strive to follow closely these scriptural principles and commands, both in what we speak and do (Col. 3:16-17).

God's law, from the beginning, is that all seed will produce after its kind. We believe the "seed," the Gospel, that was planted in the first century and made Christians, members of the church of Christ, will also produce the same result today wherever it is planted or faithfully spoken (Gen. 1; Lk. 8:11). The church of Christ was founded by Christ upon the confession "rock" that He was the "Christ, the Son of the living God." All must make the same

confession before entering or being baptized into Christ today (Rom. 10:9-10; 6:3-4). Jesus Christ is the only head (Eph. 1:22-23). We wear no name but Christ's (I Pet. 4:16). We have no creed (meaning "I believe") but the New Testament (II Tim. 3:16-17). We plead for unity of all believers and, therefore, must stand against division as being sin (Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:4). We worship sincerely in accordance with the authority of the Bible (Jn. 4:24), realizing worship would be vain if we added things not commanded or used in the early church of Christ (Matt. 15:9). We seek to save souls by preaching the Gospel, teaching godly living, and doing good to all men (Rom. 1:16; Tit. 2:11-12). You can obey the Gospel just as individuals in the first century: ". . . and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). We look in hope for the eternal glory with Christ (Thess. 4:13-18). We invite all to read their Bible and attend the services of the church of Christ.

RON'S REMINDERS



Think: Get Off the Fence

Jack Wilkie

Far too many Christians try to "ride the fence" in today's world between the Bible and popular opinion. It's time to lay down the challenge Elijah once gave Israel—"How long will you hesitate between two opinions? if the Lord is God, follow Him."

One of the central beliefs of Christianity is that the Bible is God's inspired Word and that it is authoritative in all matters of the church and our individual lives. It's not a complicated concept. The last of the Bible books was completed just over 1900 years ago, and once the Bible was finished there was nothing more to be added. It does not need our revising or rewriting, and yet that's exactly what so many who claim to be Christians often do. Consider a few examples.

A coalition of denominational leaders including well-known authors and speakers such as John Piper, Albert Mohler, and R.C. Sproul recently released a document called "The Nashville Statement" to affirm the Bible's teachings about sex, marriage, and gender. While the world did what we would expect of them and bristled at the Bible-based beliefs the statement backed, what was most unfortunate is how many people who claim the name "Christian" loudly expressed their opposition.

Desperate to align themselves as a more loving brand of Christian, those who rejected The Nashville Statement trampled all over holy Scripture. They've picked the parts of the Bible that they like and that don't get them in any trouble with the outside world. But, as Augustine wrote, "If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

To reject some of God's authority is to reject all of it. Nobody would say that a parent has his or her child under control if the child only obeys when they want. By the same logic, nobody would say that the church is under God's authority if we can ignore Him when what He wants is inconvenient for us.

Of course, it's not just with cultural morality that this is an issue. There are plenty of churches in this world that practice the same flippancy toward the Bible, deciding when they want to accept its commands and when it would be better for "business" to water it down. For example, the Sinner's Prayer continues to be pushed by churches all over the world despite the fact that there's not a single Scripture that references the idea. Other congregations are rejecting the Bible's gender roles to instead conform to cultural pressure. Still others show no concern for God's stated desires for worship.

However, it's not just on a doctrinal or congregational level that these compromises can happen. It's up to each of us to make sure we're walking according to all of what God wants from us and not just following what is convenient or making excuses for the difficult commands we don't want to follow (2 Corinthians 13:5, Philippians 2: 12). For example, if you claim to be a Christian, gather with the church multiple times a week, read the Bible daily, and yet still treat people in an unchristian manner, you're cutting what you don't like out of the Bible and keeping what you do like. Or, if we fail to do the good works that God expects of us like helping the poor and sharing the Gospel, we are no better than a church that denies the sin of homosexuality.

Either we accept the entire Bible, or we accept none of it. We are to follow the parts that are easy and the parts that are difficult, the parts that are popular and the parts that the world hates, the parts that we like and the parts that we may not. God will not be pleased with anyone who follows the majority of His commandments yet decides that they are too smart, loving, or culturally relevant to accept the rest. There is no room for fence-sitting when it comes to the Bible's authority.