

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XI ~ December 7th, 2008

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

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Sunrise Acres

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

"Well, I Believe..."

By: Brian A. Yeager

As faithful Christians we use opportunities, within our capabilities and roles (I Peter 4:11, James 3:1, and I Timothy 2:11-12), presented unto us to teach the Gospel of our Lord (Matthew 28:19). In these discussions people often tell us what they believe. We often have to tell people that their beliefs and what the word of God actually says do not agree with each other. We often have to teach that true faith comes through hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), rather than just believing anything you want (I Corinthians 4:6).

Like Jesus, we often find that we tell the truth and are not believed (John 8:45). What will make faithful Christians different than all so-called "religious people" is that we don't want people taking our words as truth (I Thessalonians 2:13). We must actually tell people to check with the Scriptures to see that what we are teaching is really in accordance with the will of God (Ephesians 5:10, I Thessalonians 5:21, and I John 4:1). We have to be sure to never twist Scriptures to make them say what we want them to say (II Peter 3:16-18). We should always study diligently to assure that we rightly divide [handle aright] the word of God (II Timothy 2:14-18). We should never be caught speaking without understanding what we say or affirm (I Timothy 1:3-7).

When we get into the discussions where someone throws out the "well, I believe" garbage, we should be able to quickly show them that not understanding the will of the Lord is foolishness (Ephesians 5:17 and Galatians 3:1). As careful students of God's word we should be able to teach, as we often review, that we cannot be a guide unto ourselves (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; 21:2 and Jeremiah 10:23). We should quickly be able to show that we cannot trust in men who are not fully following the Lord (Jeremiah 17:5; cf. I Corinthians 11:1). However, some so-called "Christians" cannot say some of these things because they are "I believe" people too. Sadly, this is something that we've had to cover here many times. Where is our credibility if we have faith in things which we cannot prove through God's word?

The “Well, I Believe” Statements We Hear In “churches of Christ”

Why is it important to focus on this issue among our “brethren”? Well, it is a credibility issue. You see, we profess to “speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent” (cf. I Peter 4:11), but rarely do we find that practiced among “brethren”. We certainly do not want to find ourselves practicing hypocrisy (Job 13:16, Matthew 7:1-5, Luke 6:46, and Romans 2:1-3; 17-29). We are the lights in this world (Matthew 5:14-16). We need to make sure we are not occasionally walking about in garments of darkness (Ephesians 5:11). So, think about some ignorant “I believe” statements you’ve heard or made and I will list some below and shine the light of the Scriptures upon them.

“Well, I believe God has **directly guided** me in obtaining wealth.” We all should know that we have everything to be thankful to God for (I Thessalonians 5:18). We also should all realize God’s providence is in the life of all the faithful (Psalms 37:25, Matthew 6:24-34, and Romans 8:28). However, God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11, and I Peter 1:17). Realize that there are faithful saints who are poor (James 2:5). Realize that wealth is not heavily praised in the Scriptures, but is heavily warned against (Matthew 19:16-30, Luke 12:15, and I Timothy 6:6-10). Finally, God does not directly guide anyone today (II Timothy 3:16-17). If God told you how to become wealthy then you are inspired and the word of God is a lie. Furthermore, you’d be able to use your divine wisdom and other supernatural abilities as did the early saints who had the Spirit through the laying on of the Apostle’s hands (Acts 8:12-24, Matthew 10:17-20, I Corinthians 12:3-11, etc.).

“Well, I believe we can see things (spiritually speaking) differently and still be both right with God”. Well, this is not what God says either. Notice: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (I Corinthians 1:10; cf. Philippians 2:2; 3:16). Additionally, we know that we must walk in the light, walk in the truth, and abide in the doctrine of Christ to be faithful (I John 1:3-7, I John 2:1-6, and II John 9-11).

“Well, I believe God is only concerned with the big things and will only judge us for the big sins.” First, God does not speak in terms of big and little sins (James 2:10-13). He will judge everything we say and do (Matthew 12:34-37 and II Corinthians 5:10). Liars and murderers face the same judgment (Revelation 21:8) as adulterers and thieves (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

“Well, I believe everything happens for a reason and nothing occurs by coincidence.” First off, I have challenged many to provide the verse stating such a “belief” and have yet had anyone provide it (Ephesians 5:10). Secondly, this statement denies that man has freewill. That is a blatant false doctrine (Deuteronomy 5:29, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Joshua 24:14-16, Matthew 10:22, Luke 8:4-15, John 8:31, and Hebrews 3:6-14). I suppose some haven’t figured out that this statement has God choosing who’s saved (cf. II Peter 3:9-10).

“Well, I believe that my wife should wear an artificial head covering.” Wrong again. Notice what the inspired word of God says: *“Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering [Greek word here means “a covering thrown around, a wrapper, a mantle, a veil - Thayer] (I Corinthians 11:14-15). Clearly, the word of God shows that God has provided the covering and that is the hair!*

Conclusion

Well, I believe space has run out for this article. Therefore, let’s all learn that if we are going to believe something concerning our Lord or His word, we’d better make sure it’s right (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).