

# WORDS OF TRUTH

*A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ*

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## *Sunrise Acres* CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:  
8625 Robert Drive  
El Paso, TX 79904

915-755-8137 (Building)  
915-525-5794 (Preacher's Office)

### OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM  
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM  
Thursday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

### 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!

## The Loophole of Inconsistency

*By: Brian A. Yeager*

I long for the day when people who ask Bible questions are serious to find the answers. It is by far more often to have a Bible question asked by someone who is looking for a loophole in God's instructions rather than just wanting to submit to what God says. In fact, you can often see it coming from a distance. The person asking the question will almost try to set you up for a rebuttal from the start. These aren't people searching for the truth with an honest and good heart (Luke 8:15). At times I feel like Abraham and Jeremiah, wondering if there are even a few truth seekers left to find (Genesis 18:23-32 and Jeremiah 5:1). While it is certain there is a remnant (Romans 11:1-5), it's easy to get Elijah syndrome (I Kings 19:8-18).

Let me give some examples of what this article shall be about. We study with some among "churches of Christ" which practice the "social gospel". We try to help that person see that God does not want the local church practicing social activities in His name. In this effort we might present Romans 14:17, John 6:26-27, and I Corinthians 11:18-34 to show this point. It seems that those we try to teach who hold the false view of the "social gospel" will not accept the truth and repent. Instead, they start trying to find inconsistencies in the person trying to teach them.

The person worshipping with a congregation providing social meals as a work of the church will first smile. Then, they ask: "where's your authority for a 'church' building"? At this point they think they're clever. This one has started climbing out the little hole they think they've made. Sound brethren will often show the authority for a central meeting location (Acts 20:7-11 and I Corinthians 11:20-22; 34; cf. Hebrews 10:25) and close the loophole of inconsistency. That will not always keep the liberal from climbing and looking for other loopholes however. What if the liberal finds you to be inconsistent? Does that authorize others do things which God has not authorized? If we err, will that authorize others to as well?



## **The Loophole Of Inconsistency In Others**

We do not want to be inconsistent (Romans 2:1). However, what if we were? If I am inconsistent, will that excuse the inconsistency of others? Will we not all have to answer for ourselves (John 5:28-29, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 14:11-12, and II Corinthians 5:10)? Men such as Mike Willis sure think that someone else's inconsistency results in Bible Authority for them. You see, Mike wrote an article about a preacher in Akron, Ohio who taught against the Guardian of Truth Institution's Annual Lectureship. Mike maintained that if this preacher could speak at a human institution, G.O.T. was doing nothing different and therefore was not wrong ([http://www.truthmagazine.com/webpdf/An\\_Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_Brown\\_Street\\_in\\_Akron.pdf](http://www.truthmagazine.com/webpdf/An_Open_Letter_to_Brown_Street_in_Akron.pdf)). (I wrote several articles exposing the G.O.T. and other human institutions among "NI" churches of Christ if you are unaware of these issues - <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/studyofinstitutionalism.htm>). Anyone in error, like Mike Willis and his other G.O.T. associates, have no Scriptural authority for what they do. So, they have to try and shift the direction of questions for their authority (cf. Matthew 21:23-27).

Those seeking to find loopholes by the inconsistency of others will often use human wisdom in what should be Biblical discussions. I once had a discussion with a preacher about "benevolence". He asked me how I could say that the local church had no authority to give aid to alien sinners out of the treasury of the local church. I reversed the question and asked him for the authority to do so (Ephesians 5:10 and I Thessalonians 5:21). I asked him: "where does God say it is RIGHT to use His money in aiding alien sinners"? This man could offer nothing else after we discussed the abuses of the contexts of Galatians 6:1-10, James 1:18-27, and II Corinthians 8-9 (which he attempted to use). In fact, he admitted that the contexts he used were abused for his view after I posed II Thessalonians 3:10 and I Timothy 5:3-16 to him among other passages. Now, after all his "arguments" were shot and killed, guess where the discussion went... He did not repent for twisting the word of God (II Timothy 2:14-18 and II Peter 3:16-18; cf. Luke 13:3; 5). He said: "Is the electric company a Christian? Does the church pay an electric bill?" Well, I must say he got me there - NOT REALLY. We have authority to have lights in the meeting house (Acts 20:7-8). Additionally, the electric company is not getting "benevolence funds" from the church. Yet, he thought if he could find an inconsistency, then his practice is okay! NOT SO!

## **The Loophole of Inconsistency is not of God!**

The plain fact is, no matter how people on the opposite sides of an issue are inconsistent (which some are), that does not give anyone authority for that which God has not spoken (Leviticus 10:1-2, Proverbs 30:5-6, Matthew 15:1-9, Galatians 1:6-12, II John 9, and Revelation 22:18-19). Human argumentation does not establish a "thus saith the Lord" nor does human inconsistency (Hebrews 5:8-9 and I John 2:3-6; 5:2-3).

Some of the logic I have heard in the discussion of inconsistency would open doors of authority that could not be shut. Imagine if someone said that Judas, an apostle of Jesus, was a thief (John 12:1-6) and argued that this allows for theft today! We know that stealing is in opposition to the word of God (Romans 13:9), but one could argue those passages were written by Apostles who once had fellowship with a thief. Does the argument hold water? NO! The arguments made today for unauthorized practices are claimed to be valid when they are just as ignorant. Consider the wisdom of those making such arguments (Proverbs 19:3).

## **Conclusion**

If you want to do what is right in the sight of God, do not use men as your standard whether they are hypocrites or not (I Corinthians 4:6). To please God, you just simply need to do what He says (Genesis 6:22 and Luke 4:4). If God has NOT said it, shown an approved example of it, or has left a conclusion that cannot be misunderstood; DON'T say it or do it (Joshua 1:7-8 and II Timothy 3:16-17).

**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).