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!

"I'll Sit Back and See What Happens"

By: Brian A. Yeager

All Christians must realize that we are soldiers in a rather significant battle (I Timothy 6:12). Our fight is against all manner of evil and our weaponry is spiritual (Ephesians 6:10-17 and II Corinthians 10:3-4). One of the evils we face is that of false doctrine and hypocrisy. Faithful Christians are expected to be ready to defend the truth (Philippians 1:17 and Jude 3) and expose unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11). In all of the local work I have done I have tried my best to keep fresh these facts. However, I have noticed, all too often, that many of the soldiers in this battle aren't ready or willing to stand on the "front lines". In fact, some sit so far back at the sign of a battle you'd think they just got out of line for tryouts to be a water boy.

Too many who bear the name Christian, put on the armor, and take hold of the sword of the Spirit; are not willing to step up when needed. In many battles they sit back and wait to see what side will be victorious before they choose their allegiance. Sadly, they have either never understood or have sorely forgotten that the battle is for the Lord, His body, and the truth He died to set forth in this world.

Not too long ago I watched part of a news cast where a democrat (Joe Lieberman) was being interviewed by Sean Hannity on the Fox News Channel. Sean Hannity was trying to get Joe Lieberman to endorse either a Republican or Democrat for the upcoming Presidential race. Lieberman kept saying he was going to wait and see who would win the primary elections and then he would make his endorsement. Unlike most Democrats, he said he could possibly be endorsing a Republican because of the Iraq conflict and the "War on Terror" our country is involved in. However, he would not set forth a name to endorse. What does that have to do with this subject and why would I even mention something I find little interest in anyway. Well, as I listened to this interview I thought of how many brethren who sit back and wait to see what the popular positions are going to be. They wait to see who'll agree with them before they teach something. They take

polls of brethren about what they think about a particular doctrine. Folks, when Christians sound like politicians, something is wrong!

Where Did Gamaliel Stand?

Notice this account: *"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone:* ***for if this counsel or this work be of men****, it will come to nought:* ***But if it be of God****, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go"* (Acts 5:27-40).

After reading the above account, ask yourself where Gamaliel stood. Do you think he stood with the Apostles? If so, why was he not beaten? Do you think he stood against them, if so why were they set free? The fact is, Gamaliel did not stand with them or against them. He did not proudly proclaim that this counsel was of God. In fact, he put it to question by saying "if it be of God…". If you reread this account, compare Peter and the other Apostles answer to the council with that of Gamaliel. Peter didn't leave any question about where he stood. Now, ask yourself how many times you've seen the Gamaliel type of answers among brethren. The "ifs" is where they stand because that buys them a way out of conflict. Of course, IF the majority will agree with their suggestion, they'll grow bolder. Do folks know where you stand? We shouldn't be able to stop proclaiming the name of Christ and His truth regardless of where others stand! Who cares what'll happen because we stand for what is right in the sight of our Lord! Jesus didn't leave Jerusalem when He was to face death for you (Matthew 16:21).

Conclusion

Those who stand for the truth do not do so in a way that leaves an escape route. You'll know with certainty where and with whom the faithful stand. The earlier occasion of Peter and John being brought before the Counsel is another demonstration of what standing really is. In conclusion, notice how we should all sound: *"And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that* ***by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified****, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.* ***This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders****, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* ***Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John****, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and* ***they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus****... And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For* ***we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard****"* (Acts 4:7-13; 18-20).

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, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6). One must then remain faithful (Rev. 2:10).