

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: Brian A. Yeager

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!

"Let Me Tell You What I Believe"

By: Brian A. Yeager

In a context dealing with the conscience and liberties, Paul said: *"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"* (Romans 14:23). What Paul established is an important precedence. Paul established the principle that we must believe in what we do rather than doing things while doubting the validity of those actions. The faithful Christian understands that our faith does not come from our guidance (Proverbs 20:24), but through the word of God (Romans 10:17). Thus, when a Christian makes a statement of faith, they should be able to prove what they believe through the word of God (I Corinthians 2:1-5, II Corinthians 2:17, and John 4:34; cf. Luke 4:16-21 and Proverbs 4:26-27). That being said, we must also acknowledge that some do try to use the word of God to establish their beliefs. Sadly, they go to the Bible with a belief and they then twist the Scriptures to justify what they believe (II Peter 3:16-17). We must arrive at our beliefs through an honest look at the Scriptures.

Honesty in searching the Scriptures is not the most popular approach to Bible study. Such is evident by the many who care to run their ideas by men and the writings of men (commentaries, etc.) before they will accept what they have read in God's word as the truth. We are not to think beyond that which is written (I Corinthians 4:6), but many have become professionals in stating and trying to answer hypothetical questions which are not from inspiration. It is almost as though some find it too difficult to accept the simplicity that is in Christ (II Corinthians 11:3), so they try and make the truth more difficult than it is. Questions arise that are intended to cause doubt and division (Matthew 22:1ff.). These questions we are instructed of God to avoid (II Timothy 2:23 and Titus 3:9). However, some refuse to avoid them. They enjoy trying to answer everything to show that they are someone who knows something. In reality, we are nobodies who pale in comparison to the knowledge and wisdom of God (I Corinthians 1:25-31; 3:19-21). Thus, your thoughts on a subject matter are crap (dung as Paul would say – Philippians 3:8) to God!

The “I Believes” of Tradition

Why do we believe in meeting on the first day of the week? Why do we believe in immersing folks for the remission of sins? Why do we believe there is no authority for mechanical instrumental music being used in song worship to God? Why do we believe the Old Testament was done away on the cross? Why do we believe the church of Christ is the body of Christ? Why do we believe in giving on the first day of the week? Why do some brethren meet more than just once a week? Folks, the questions are endless. If you believe it, why do you believe it? Is it because that’s the way things have always been done? The following of any and all traditions of men is wrong (Mark 7:1-9 and Colossians 2:8; 20-23). We condemn the denominational world for following the doctrines of men, but are we hypocrites in this condemnation? If we cannot answer the questions that started this paragraph with Scriptures, we are hypocrites. I know what I believe on those matters, for the Bible gives the answers. Notice them in order of the questions asked (Acts 20:7, Acts 2:38; 8:35-38, Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, I Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 2:12, James 5:13, Romans 7:1-6, Ephesians 2:11-17, Colossians 2:14, Hebrews 9:15-17, Matthew 16:13-18, Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6, Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:1-2, Acts 2:42-46, Acts 14:26-27, Hebrews 3:13; 10:25, and II Timothy 1:13). You see, if you believe it, you must be able to prove it. When someone asks “why do you believe _____”, you should be able to open the Bible and let them read it for themselves. If it takes fifteen minutes of your logic to explain what “you believe”, it is then more than God said!

Man has complicated that which is simple. For example, Don Martin wrote the following statement about meeting twice on the first day of the week for more people to be able to partake of the Lord’s Supper: “I, again, have more problems with not making use of the opportunity to meet Sunday night just so the "second serving" issue does not arise than I do with seeing a local church provide the circumstance for partaking during the evening service. Besides, having the arrangement for morning or evening observance means that more Christians have the ability to partake on the Lord's Day” (<http://www.bibletruths.net/Archives/BTAR280.htm>). If a congregation meets just one time to avoid a controversy of a second serving of the Lord’s Supper, those brethren have erred. We cannot silence an issue by avoiding it (I Thessalonians 5:21 and I Peter 3:15). However, the quote above is more about what Don Martin believes than what the word of God says. The whole idea of a make-up serving of the Lord’s Supper is false. If, as Don does in the above referenced article, someone appeals to Numbers chapter nine and the make-up of the Passover, why don’t they cut off the one that is clean and is not on a journey who misses the partaking of the Lord’s Supper (Numbers 9:13)? I know why, that doesn’t fit the traditional view (Matthew 15:3; 7-9). Don’s article covers more of the “I believe” than it does “God said”.

When Don Martin (and others) correctly write against the human organizations that have usurped the work of the local church and the individual Christian, Mental divorce, and other errors; he writes against the idea of human reasoning (“*Authority, Misunderstood Today?*”; Bible Matters List; 6/15/2007). Don get’s it, but only on the matters that are a common practice or hobby horse for him! Otherwise, we read **in just one paragraph** of the same article referenced from his website above (in regards to the second observation of the Lord’s Supper) the following statements: “**I** would prefer... **I** deem it sad and unwarranted... **I** have more concern... **I**, again, have more problems... **I** do...”. Who’s the standard when we speak in such terminology? Who’s Don Martin or Brian Yeager? We’re just men. What we think is irrelevant.

Conclusion

Jesus, had all authority in Heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18), but He was not an “I thinker”: “*Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him*” (John 7:16-18). Until we are sure that what we do is because we believe it through the word of God, we ought not speak nor act! Just because “good and faithful” brethren have always said something or done something, that does not mean that “good” people have not been very wrong (Matthew 7:21-23). Can you prove what you believe (Galatians 1:10-12)?

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).