

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XII ~ December 14th, 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!

When Your Opinion Is The Only One That Matters

By: Brian A. Yeager

In this article we are not talking about opinions when it comes to spiritual matters. For, in spiritual matters, the word of God must be the only guide we use (Job 32:8, Psalms 119:105; 169, Proverbs 30:5-6, Luke 4:4, Luke 11:28, II Timothy 3:15-17, and II Peter 1:3). We are not talking about matters between elders and members of the local church. Elders have the oversight, as long as they are not erring (I Timothy 5:19-20), of the congregation (Acts 20:28, Hebrews 13:7; 17, and I Peter 5:1-3). We are not talking about role reversals of males and females. We know that women are not to usurp authority over the man (I Timothy 2:11-15). We are not talking about the husband and wife relationship, for the husband is by all means to be the head of the home (Ephesians 5:22-24 and I Peter 3:1-7). Furthermore, the authority of parents over children in their home is clear as well (Colossians 3:20).

What we will be discussing is the realm of personal opinion in various matters. You see, some people just feel that their way of doing things is the only way to do them. Solomon, by way of inspiration, said: *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts"* (Proverbs 21:2). We have those like the famous "mother in-law" who just has to tell her daughter in-law how to fry chicken, fold clothes, handle a crying baby, etc. This is a famous example because the advice the bad mother in-law often adds is unsolicited and not necessarily the best way anyway.

All of us should be willing to listen to wise, godly counsel (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 13:20; 19:21). Yet, if your opinion is not based upon the truth of God's word, it is essentially as good as anyone else's opinion (Proverbs 20:24; 21:30). As Christians, we need to know when to shut up (Proverbs 21:23). We do not want to force our opinions on others. If we do force our way of thinking on others, our teaching of the truth will be perceived as just an opinion from a "dominant personality". Moreover, most who act as though they know everything, have lives full of serious errors!

Before Your Opinion Becomes Everyone Else's Standard, How's Your Life?

A very basic truth from God's word is that hypocrites ought to clean up their own lives before working on others (Matthew 7:1-5; cf. Job 8:13-15). Notice the inspired words of Job: *"For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul"* (Job 27:8)? Most people have a lot to say, but practice little of their own advice. The parent who counsels their child on how to be "successful", yet they've accomplished nothing in life (Galatians 6:3; cf. 6:12-13). Moreover, those parents are often far more involved in the "career choices" of their children than in the spiritual choices of their children (Ephesians 6:4 and II Timothy 1:5). I find it fascinating that the Lord does not give instructions on how to teach young women to be successful CEO's, but does instruct that younger women learn to be wives and mothers (Titus 2:3-5). In many "opinions" today, God would be counted as the one who's wrong. What about husbands who always have a better way for the wife to "keep house" or the wife that always can tell her husband the better way to "bring home the bucks"? Folks, we have roles given by God which would eliminate a lot of opinions if we lived them! Which brings up the question, whose "advice" is the "always right adviser" listening to?

Whose Counsel Is Behind The "Know It All"?

Frankly, if someone is not living a life guided by the Scriptures in every way, I know they are foolish (Psalms 81:11-16 and Galatians 3:1). Worldly advice is foolishness (I Corinthians 3:19). Why would we be so concerned, as Christians, with the insignificant matters we often think we should advise others on? God's counsel is for us to speak His word to others rather than our own ways (Titus 2:1 and II Corinthians 10:12). Truth be told, God's counsel is not behind the "know it all" for that person would learn not to be a meddler in the affairs of others (Proverbs 20:3, II Thessalonians 3:11-12, and I Timothy 5:11-14). Just think, we sin when we get into trouble for meddling in the affairs of others (I Peter 4:15)! Additionally, we need to realize that even when we have counsel that is of God to share, there is a time to back off when others won't listen.

"Down Boy, Down!"

The play on talking to a dog may be offensive, but frankly some people just won't stop jumping all over you for nothing. Frankly, if we have the truth and know we're right, there is still a time to stop trying to teach the erring (Matthew 7:6, Matthew 10:14, and Titus 3:10-11). Understand this clearly, **EVEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD**, there is a time to shut up and move on (Acts 13:42-51). When Israel wanted a king, which was an erring decision, God told Samuel to protest solemnly unto them, but ultimately God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted (I Samuel 8:1-22). Brethren, every person alive has the right of choice even in matters of right and wrong (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 and John 5:28-29). Sometimes, we just have to give it a rest.

Conclusion

The word of God really does contain everything we need to live a good life on this earth (II Timothy 3:16-17). If you cannot have an argument answered from the Scriptures, it is not a worthy disagreement to try and solve (Romans 12:18). Everything from parenting (Proverbs 22:6) to dealing with anxiety is discussed in the Bible (I Peter 5:6-7). Therefore, consider the following Scriptures in conclusion: *"For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil... For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly"* (Proverbs 1:29-33; 2:6-7).

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).