

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XXXVIII ~ June 14th, 2009

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: *Brian A. Yeager*



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!

"It Had Been Good For That Man If He Had Not Been Born"

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

The title for our article this week comes from this context: *"And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! **it had been good for that man if he had not been born.** Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said"* (Matthew 26:19-25).

How many Judas like brethren do you suppose you've met? Are you possibly one yourself? There have been many whom I have known that have betrayed the Lord and have never repented. This is what Judas did. Judas Iscariot was one, of the twelve, first chosen to be Apostles. Judas Iscariot is the one that betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 10:1-4 and Matthew 26:14-16).

Judas, like some "brethren" I have met, always had ulterior motives. For example, notice this event: *"Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein"* (John 12:1-6). Consider that, Judas would have been better off never having been born. Think about that. What does that mean if you're like Judas?

Would It Have Been Better If You Were Never Born?

Judas is an easy target. What about you? Are you a “brother” or “sister” pretending to be in Christ? Do you always have some hidden agenda? Are you waiting to sell Jesus? What do you think you do every time you transgress His law (II John 9)? Notice what the Lord says about those who sin after coming to know the truth: *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, where with he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”* (Hebrews 10:26-31). Those who fall away, even if they’re still sitting in the pew (Romans 2:1-3), have crucified afresh the Son of God (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Let me capitalize on something here for a moment. Sometimes “brethren” consider one faithful because they attend services, do some good works, maybe they hold some office of leadership, etc. Let me remind us all that Judas fits all of those categories. Therefore, as you examine yourself and others based upon the principles written in this article, remember that appearances mean nothing (Matthew 23:28).

Now, to the question at hand, if you are like Judas you are in the same boat he is. You’re heading towards Hell (Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:43-48, John 5:28-29, and Revelation 21:8). Sure, you could just be an idiot and hang yourself (physically or spiritually) like Judas did (Matthew 27:1-5). But, why not repent (Luke 13:3; 5) and make things right with the Lord (I John 1:9) and the brethren (Luke 17:3-4 and James 5:16)?

Why, if you’re in the same situation as Judas was, would it be better had you never been born? Consider the following Scriptures: *“For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish... For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator... For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”* (Psalms 1:6, I Peter 4:17-19, and II Peter 2:20-22).

Why would you want to waste your life? The bad thing about having the kind of life that would have been better off never existing is that you cannot undo your birth. You live this life with the sure expectation that you will stand and be judged for your actions (Romans 14:11-12).

Conclusion

Do you get the point? If you are sliding down the slippery slope of fake Christianity, it’s time to stop. You do not want to find out what the vengeance of the Lord is all about (II Thessalonians 1:7-9, Hebrews 12:29, and Jude 7). Don’t live your life here and now so that eternity will be a testimony that you would have been better off having never been born. Live your life now so that you can look forward to eternity (II Corinthians 5:1-11, Philippians 1:21-24, and II Timothy 4:6-8).

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).