

Preserving the Church II

Jude 3

- A. Matt. 16:18 – The Lord said, “I will build my church.”
- B. To preserve the church requires that its members are aware of conditions that oppose the purity and the preservation of the church

I. Division:

- A. 1 Cor. 1:10-13 - Christ is not divided.
- B. Matt. 12:25 – Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.
- C. 1 Cor. 3:1-4 – Will arise out of a carnal mind
- D. Jn. 17:20-21 – Jesus would have his disciples to be one.

IV. False Doctrine:

- A. Matt. 6:24 – Disciples cannot serve two masters.
- B. Matt. 13:19 – The evil one can snatch away what has been sown in the heart.
- C. Rom. 16:17-18 – Those of smooth and fair speech beguile the hearts of the innocent.
- D. 2 Pet. 2:1 – False teachers are sure to rise.
- E. Acts 20:29 – May even be from a trusted source



Cleanse Your Ways

Parents like to know their children are in top shape and growing according to schedule. Parents recognize the need to keep up with their child's progress in life: mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. This physical truth is also a spiritual one. The scriptures tell us that spiritual growth is to be taken seriously. The apostle Peter addressed this issue saying, “as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation” (1 Peter 2:2).

Walking

In the law and the prophets, the term walk “is used sometimes with a special emphasis on the end or goal of the action in mind” (Vine's). “This verb can also be used of one's behavior, or the way one walks in life.” So he who “walks” uprightly shall be blessed of God (Isa. 33:15). This does not refer to walking upright on one's feet but to living a righteous life” (Ibid.).

In the gospels and the epistles, the term walk is used to depict conduct:

“And the Pharisees and the scribes ask him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with defiled hands?” (Mk. 7:5).

Paul had been falsely accused of error, as his enemies said, “thou teachest all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children neither to walk after the customs” (Acts 21:21).

Paul admonished the brethren, saying, “that ye no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:17-19).

Peter wrote of “them that walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement, and despise dominion. Daring, self-willed, they tremble not to rail at dignities: 2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, bring not a railing judgment against them before the Lord” (2 Pet. 2:10-11).

Therefore, knowing that “He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from taking a bribe, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from looking upon evil: He shall dwell on high; his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; his bread shall be given *him*; his waters shall be sure.” (Isa. 33:15-6), should motivate the child of God to “Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16). ret



Confusion or Peace

When we look at the religious society within which we live, what do we see? Do we not see many different doctrines and practices? The apostle Paul affirmed that "God is not a God of confusion, but of peace" (1 Cor. 14:32). Yet, that's what the religious world would have us believe. James affirmed, "For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed" (Jam. 3:16). Confusion is, "instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion" (Thayer's Greek Definitions). If all the religions of our society that claim to be following Christ were doing so, would there be so much confusion? Confusion is not a product of God's teaching but that of men. Paul once spoke of his countrymen who "being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3). The same is true today. People have a zeal for God, but they have been misled by the religious leaders who "with feigned words make merchandise" (2 Pet. 2:3) of them. ret

What is Christianity?

Christianity is a common enough phrase in our society. Many organizations claim to be "Christian" in doctrine and practice. The question is, "Are they?" Could they not just as well be serving some manmade god under the guise of Christianity? What makes doctrine and practice "Christian"? Is it not "following Christ"? Is it not simple enough to determine what allegiance is being paid by a comparison of doctrine and practice, as is set forth in the Bible? The apostle Paul once instructed the Corinthian Christians that they should "learn not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Cor. 4:6). The danger of apostasy is not only possible but also probable. Paul told the young evangelist Timothy, "But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth" (1 Tim. 4:1-3). In like manner he told Timothy, "For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).



Where Do You Put Your Confidence?

What is the basis of your faith? Do you "know" what the will of God is, or do you put your trust in those that lead you? Two words of warning are worthy of attention: "It is better to take refuge in Jehovah, Than to put confidence in man" (Psalms 118:8) and "...let God be found true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). ret

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S W I F T B D E S O L A T P
 U P R I V T E A C H E R S R
 O R E A R T C S M O O T E I
 E O U E J K A N E Y E C U V
 T P D O C T R I N E R I G I
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DIVISION	KINGDOM	CARNAL
DESOLATION	DISCIPLE	FALSE
DOCTRINE	HEART	SOWN
SMOOTH	SPEECH	TEACHERS
BEGUILE	FAIR	TRUSTED
SOURCE	TWO MASTERS	MAMMON
SWIFT	HEARETH	BESEECH
BELLY	PROPHETS	DESTRUCTIVE
PRIVILY	TRUTH	SENTENCE
RIGHTEOUS	SOUL	DENYING
EXAMPLE	PRESERVED	DAILY
ANXIETY	CHURCH	REPENT

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With Him is

Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

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Weekly Reading:
 Acts 2:1-47; 1 Cor. 12:1-31
 1 Cor. 14:1-40



Luke 16:19-31

**Your Choice
 Choose Wisely**



Revelation 4:4

Do you believe the Bible is the word of God?

The apostle Peter affirmed that believers in God should be able to "give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). The scriptures affirm that God revealed truth through earthen vessels. The law and the prophets affirm that they are the word of God: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Jehovah hath spoken" (Isaiah 1:2). Jesus also said, concerning the work of the apostles, "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word" (John 17:20). The apostle Paul affirmed "the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 14:37). Do you believe the Bible is the word of God? Yes or No? If not, why not? What evidence do you have that would nullify God's evidence that he revealed himself through the written word? ret