The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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October 2, 2022

"Sorrowful At The Word Of God"

By George Parsley

The gospels record for us an account of when a young, religious ruler had asked Jesus about eternal life (Lk. 18:18-30).

Initially Jesus told him to keep the commandments, in which the young man had done from his youth (Lk. 18:20-21). But then Jesus told him, *"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me"* (Lk. 18:22). Now Marks account said that Jesus had a love or compassion for him (Mk. 10:21). So what Jesus told him was out of love for him to have eternal life, not to justify his good moral life.

There were two major things this man was going to have to do. First of all he had to let go of his possessions and then follow Jesus. Secondly he was going to have to leave his position of authority as a ruler and follow Jesus. This man had power, money and was morally upright but those things did not save him.

Now notice this mans reaction to Jesus' words, *"And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich"* (Lk. 18:23). The Bible said he was "very sorrowful"." This is not a simple matter of disappointment, but this word means "overcome with sorrow so much as to cause one's death" (Thayer). He was tore up at the words of Jesus. Since he was very sorrowful indicates that he believed that Jesus was telling him the truth and he was unwilling to comply with the truth.

The same is true today, for when people see and understand the teaching of Jesus is contrary to that which they have been raised in they also can be "overcome with sorrow so much as to cause one's death". But even though Jesus loved this man and His words caused this young man to be hurt deeply, Jesus did not change the requirements for this mans salvation. *"And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"* (Lk. 18:24)

You see, Jesus was more concerned with this man's eternal life than his feelings. Jesus did not change His requirements because they caused this man some discomfort and sacrifice.

The words of Jesus concerning salvation are the same today as they were in the 1st century, they haven't changed. Jesus still says belief and baptism saves (Mk. 16:16). The words of Peter that repentance and baptism is for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Saul was still told to be baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). Peter also said that baptism saves (1 Pet. 3:21). An immoral life still does not have an inheritance (Ephesians 5:5). Repentance is still required when in the wrong (Luke 13:3,5).

When the truth of these hits home and causes us pain they will still be the truth. But what will we do with the truth? Will we be like the man in our text and go away very sorrowful? Or will we be like Peter when he said, *"Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee"* (Lk. 18:28).

If we want eternal life we will have to conform to the teachings of Jesus regardless of how painful they may be for us to do.

"Should We Be Amish?"

By Mike Thomas

Imagine being told all your life that pants with zippers, dresses with buttons, and automobiles are of the devil. Most Amish have these beliefs because they have been taught to view these items as part of the worldliness that God tells us to avoid – *"And do not be conformed to this world"* (Romans 12:2).

While many aspects of this denomination appeal to me (modesty, family interaction, compassionate community), I cannot endorse it because it is not the church found in the New Testament and in order to practice the faith one must place the traditions of men above the word of God. How else is it concluded that electricity from a generator is okay, but electricity from a community line is a sin? There is nothing in God's word, either in principle or direct command, that defines worldliness by these obscure standards (1 John 2:16). They are only wrong because men say they are wrong, which is not how doctrine is determined.

Jesus was criticized for not following manmade regulations in Mark 7:1-16. He responded by saying, *"For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men"* (v. 8). This is the inevitable fate of anyone who follows the opinions of men as the commandments of God. They will violate what God has said while enforcing what God has not said. The Amish do this in that they take the Lord's Supper twice a year and meet for church every other Sunday, a clear violation of New Testament teaching (Acts 20:7), yet say it is wrong to operate a motorized vehicle. This is not God's will. We cannot bind where God has not bound and loose where He has not loosed. The "*commandments and doctrines of men…indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body"* (Colossians 2:22-23), but do not define the will of God. Only God has the authority to bind and loose sin (John 8:36). Has He forgiven you? (Acts 2:38).

"AFFIRMING WHAT GOD DENIES"

by Max Dawson

It happened this week at the Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas. In a letter dated November 14, 2016, Baptist preacher George Mason informed his congregation of the results of their vote on same-sex marriage and LGBT membership. The motion to change church by-laws to accept homosexuality was approved with a 61% favorable vote. This follows a direction set earlier by such churches as First Baptist Church of Austin, Texas. Their "Diversity Statement" welcomes people of every "sexual orientation" into their fellowship.

"Christian" authors, Jen and Brandon Hatmaker, announced that they also support same-sex marriage. Another "Christian" author, Glennon Doyle Melton, announced this week that she is dating soccer star Abby Wambach (see Washington Post). Melton's announcement comes just three months after announcing her divorce from Craig Melton, her husband of 14 years. These examples only scratch the surface of the changing face of religion and morality in America. There are many more such cases. More churches affirming same-sex marriage. More celebrities and religious figures endorsing homosexuality.

And it is not just those high-profile cases that grab our attention. At a middle school yesterday morning, an eighth-grader asked me, "What's wrong with homosexuality?" He followed by saying, "That was something only condemned in the Old Testament, not in the New Testament." I read to him from Romans 1:20-28. I told him that when God says something is wrong, then it is wrong. He was not satisfied with the answer from the Bible. Neither are some churches.

Do you think it is OK to vote on something where God has already spoken? And if such a vote is taken (as in the case of Wilshire Baptist), does it change what God has said? When did popularity and public sentiment ever comprise a test of truth? We do not determine right and wrong by a show of hands. Contemporary wisdom is often unwise--as it is in this matter. Contemporary wisdom makes "Scripture to be irrelevant and misleading. Why? Because Scripture would lead us to condemn what our culture wants to approve. So, we can't just follow Scripture!"

Some Churches and "Christians" have decided to affirm what God denies--that homosexuality is acceptable to God. See Romans 1:20-28. Every time Scripture addresses same-sex relations, it prohibits such relations. Every time! To attempt to normalize such relations is simply going along with what is fashionable in this present evil world (Galatians 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17).

Affirming what God denies is bad business. Judgment day is coming. Will God ask for a show of hands on that day?

***News and Notes*:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Aaron Posey (Phil Campbell), Bill Woodall, Wade Butler, and Wesley Trimble.

Jerry Trimble was in a bad accident and is still in the hospital. Tupelo- Room 480.
Nannette and Derek Chancellor (Nannette passed away).
Kathryn Callahan's mother has leukemia and begins treatments this week.
Danny Cottrell has surgery this Monday.

Our Gospel Meeting- October 9-12.
NorthEast Church of Christ in Tupelo Meeting- October 2-5 Different Speakers

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	*"Opinions Against The Truth"*
Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:	Jerry Kennemur
Workbook:	Ephesians (Chris Reeves)
Starting Page & Question:	*Page #60, Question #15*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Nathan Meade *Matthew 9:10-13*
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Paul Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	*"Jesus, The Great Physician"*
Closing Prayer:	Dan Cottrell

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.
October 5th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Johnson
Workbook:	Jeremiah & Lamentations (John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question:	*Page #76, Question #20*
Invitation:	Dan Cottrell
Song Leader:	Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer:	Doug George

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"Opinions Against The Truth"

Lesson Text: **Matthew 16:13-17.**

gnome (γνώμη, 1106), "an opinion, purpose, judgment," Ex. 2 Corinthians 7:25.
(Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Vol. 2, p. 499).

alethes (ἀληθής, 227),"true to fact," ….conforming to reality, John 4:18, "truly," lit.,
(Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Vol. 2, p. 645).

I. Examples Of Opinions In The Bible.

— Jacob **Genesis 37:33.**
— Job's Wife **Job 2:9.**
— Job's Three Friends **Job 8:1-6.**
— The Israelites To Aaron **Exodus 32:1**
— The Israelites To Moses **Exodus 14:11-12.**
— Korah **Numbers 16:3**
— Naaman **2 Kings 5:11-12.**
— Nathanael **John 1:46.**
— Jewish Leaders **John 9:16; vs. 24-25.**
— Peter **Matthew 16:22-23; Matthew 17:3-4.**
— Paul **Acts 26:9-10.**
— Some Christians **1 Corinthians 15:12; 2 Timothy 2:17-18.**

II. What Causes Opinions Conflicting With The Truth?

— Ignorance Of The Truth- Every Example in Point I.
— Preconceived Notions Against The Truth- Naaman, Job's Friends, Nathanael, Jews…
— An Unwillingness To Accept The Truth- Korah, Naaman, Jewish Leaders- **John 5:40.**
— False Teachers Who Taught Contrary To The Truth- **Acts 15:1-2; 15:24.**

III. Modern Day Opinions Of Men.

— *"One Church Is As Good As Another"*
— *"All Religions Teach The Same Thing."*
— *"The Church Of Christ Is Just Another Denomination"*
— *"God Will Accept You As Long As You Are Honest And Sincere."*
— *"You Don't Have To Be Baptized To Be Saved."*
—*"You Cannot Fall From Grace And Be Lost!"*
— *Jesus Was A Fraud, And Not The Son Of God!"*

IV. How To Unravel Opinions Against The Truth.

— Know The Truth- **John 18:37b; 2 Timothy 2:15.**
— Live The Truth- **Matthew 4:4; 3 John 4.**
— Uphold The Truth- **2 Corinthians 10:4-5.**

"Jesus, The Great Physician"

Lesson Text: **Matthew 9:10-13.**

Questions from this text:

(1) Who came to join them at Levi's house? **(Mark 2:15; Luke 5:29).**
(2) Who complained or grumbled about it? **(Luke 5:30).**
(3) What did Jesus say to dispel their complaints? **(Matt. 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31).**
(4) Matthew adds, *"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice."* **(9:13).**

I. When Going To The Doctor:

- We Want A Doctor Who Cares About Their Patients.
- We Want A Doctor Qualified And Capable Of Treating Us.
- We Want A Doctor To Prescribe The Right Treatment Or Medicine.
- Jesus Fits What Is Needed In ALL AREAS!
- Jesus Cares About Us **Matthew 9:13; Mark 1:41; 5:19; 6:34.**
- Unlike The Jews of His Day Who Stayed Away From The Sick **Luke 7:39; 19:7.**
- Can We Ever Help The Sick Without Having Contact With Them?
- Jesus Is The Only Qualified And Capable Physician— No Not One! (Song).

II. Jesus Helps Us With All Our Sicknesses.

— Jesus Prescribes The Only Cure For Our Greatest Sicknesses:
— Heart Problems: **Mark 10:5; Luke 24:25; Acts 28:27; Rom. 2:5; Heb. 3:12.**
— Eye Problems: **John 9:39-41; 2 Peter 1:9; Matthew 6:22-23.**
— Hand Problems: **Psalm 26:10; Proverbs 6:17; Matthew 5:30.**
— Foot Problems: **Proverbs 6:18; Jeremiah 14:10; Mark 9:45.**
— Hearing Problems: **Matthew 13:15; Acts 7:57; Heb. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:3-4.**
— Sin Sickness: Compared To Leprosy… **2 Kings 5— John 3:3-5; Titus 3:4-7.**
— But It Up To Us To Seek The Help Of The Great Physician!
— We Must Take The Prescribed Medicine To Work! **Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16-17.**

III. Jesus Established The Church To Help Us Be Well.

— The Church As A Hospital For The Sin-Sick!
— We Should Always Remember Our Mission Given To Us **Luke 19:10.**
— Our Attitude: Helping The Sick, Like We Were Sick **Jude 20-23.**
— The Parable Of The Little Hospital…. Lost Sight Of Its Purpose.
— May We Have The Attitude & Desire Of Our Master—Jesus, The Great Physician.