

## HANDLING ARIGHT THE WORD OF TRUTH

The exhortation from the apostle Paul declares, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). A failure to handle correctly the Word of God will result in a departure from the divine pattern. The **wrong** emphasis in teaching will not produce the faith and unity that is profitable for one's salvation.

A preacher or teacher is obligated to teach all truths that are applicable to man's salvation today. To be free from the blood of all men one must boldly proclaim **all** profitable teaching (Acts 20:20) which is "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). The faith that saves a soul from sin comes **only** by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Diligent study of God's Word is necessary so that in every circumstance and situation the Holy Scriptures are correctly applied. A haphazard approach to Bible study is **not** profitable for one's spiritual well-being. The folly of such careless handling of God's Word is well illustrated by the man who was quick to demonstrate that he was prepared to do what the Scriptures would have him to do. He opened his Bible and read that Judas "went away and hanged himself" (Matt. 27:5). He then turned and read the Master's statement that says, "Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37). This is exactly the way that many people handle the Holy Scriptures, and it is why the majority of folks are worshipping in vain!

The Patriarchal Dispensation began with Adam and Eve in about 4000 B.C. and lasted for approximately 2500 years (longer for the Gentiles). God dealt with each family directly and the father would serve as the prophet or priest. There was **no** set day for worship under this dispensation. Sacrifices were made with animals – a blood sacrifice. Atonement that was made for the sins of the people was temporary (Lev. 16) and looked forward to the death of Christ (cf. Rom. 3:25-26; Heb. 9:15; 10:4).

The Mosaic Dispensation involved **only** the Jews – the chosen nation of God. This is clearly stated when Moses said, "Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. Jehovah made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day" (Deut. 5:2-3). Acceptable worship was first conducted in the temporary tabernacle in the wilderness and later in the temple at Jerusalem. The priests under the Law of Moses were descendants of Aaron and of the tribe of Levi (Ex. 28:1; Num. 3:1-13).

This dispensation contained the first written law and one primary purpose was to keep Abraham's race distinct until the coming of the promised seed (Rom. 4:16-19). This law was a "schoolmaster" or "tutor" by which the people of God would be brought to Christ (Gal. 3:19-25). It was always to be a temporary dispensation to last only until Jesus ushered in the New Covenant (cf. 2 Cor. 3:11, 14; Matt. 5:17).

Animal sacrifices were offered for the sins of the people and a remembrance was "made of sins year by year" because it was "impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:3-4). The Mosaic Dispensation lasted about 1500 years.

The Christian Age or New Covenant is the final dispensation and will last until the end of the world. Jesus Christ is the Prophet, Priest and King of the new covenant, (Luke 24:19; Heb. 4:14; Rev. 17:14) and He will also be the Judge (John 12:48; Jam. 4:12). Individual Christians are priests (Rev. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9), and Christ is the High Priest. The sacrifice for sin was Jesus Christ Who was offered once for all (Heb. 9:12, 26). Through His shed blood "we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7).

The church (God's people) is to assemble each Lord's Day (Acts 20:7) to worship "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). The kingdom or church (Matt. 16:18-19) is spiritual in nature, and there is no earthly headquarters (John 18:36). Christ is the head of His church, which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). There is only "one body" (Eph. 4:4) and it is the **only** body that Christ has ever promised to save (Eph. 5:23).

An obedient faith is necessary as Christ is "the author of eternal salvation" **only** to those who "obey him" (Heb. 5:9). One enters this kingdom only by the new birth (John 3:3-5) and the Lord Himself adds those who obey the Gospel to the church (Acts 2:47). Belief (Heb. 11:6), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession (Rom. 10:9-10) and baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27; Mark 16:16) are prerequisites to one's salvation.

God speaking directly to fathers, circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, animal sacrifices, burning incense, and instrumental music are **not** part of the New Testament. Let us make sure that we are "handling aright the word of truth!"

Marvin Weir  
Paris, TX

# BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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## Humility

Our Savior was born in humble surroundings, among the cattle, but He was the Savior of the world, and now the world must hear Him and obey Him, Who once lay in a stable.

The Bible teaches us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt us. I hope the day will come when we can possess the spirit of humility that every child of God must have in order to be a successful worker in the kingdom of our God.

Meekness and humility are the elements we need to fertilize our hearts, so the Word of God can grow in our hearts, and bring forth fruit to the glory and honor of our Lord.

Moses, who was reared in the king's palace: humbled *himself*. Desiring to please God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, by being humble, he was permitted to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. As long as he was humble and meek, God was pleased and blessed all of his work, but when he became exalted, he trusted in himself and struck the rock. This was because he lost control of himself and lost that meek and humble spirit, and for this cause he missed the Promised Land.

Many preachers are failing today, and hindering the cause of Christ because they do not have the spirit of humility and meekness.

Our Lord remained meek and humble until He finished His work on earth, and we must remain meek and humble until we complete our labors on earth. We should hunger and thirst after the spirit of humility, so we will be a living example to the world, and be able to lead many to Christ, and God's kingdom will spread and Jesus be lifted up until to God be all praise, honor, and glory.

Marshall Keeble  
Deceased

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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**IS TEN COMMANDMENT LAW STILL BINDING? -  
PART SEVEN**

The seventh chapter of the book we are reviewing - "Ten Commandments Twice Removed" - is entitled "It's No Secret--Catholic Church Claims the Change."

The authors begin this chapter with the following statement: "We will soon examine some claims and comments made public by the Catholic Church. I disagree with the position of authority on which this religious system thinks to stand. But I want to express my belief that God has His people in all churches--including the Roman Catholic Church." Note this is what the authors believe but where is their authority for such a statement? Where does the Bible authorize different churches? Did not the Lord promise to build but one (Matthew 16:18)? Did not the Lord's blood purchase the church - singular - with His blood (Acts 20:28)? All of His blood went to purchase that church - thus there was none left to purchase another. Note what our Lord stated: "*But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*" (Matthew 15:13). Did the Lord build (or plant) the denominational churches or did he build (or plant) just one? Further, the scriptures teach that the Lord adds to the church those who are saved (Acts 2:47). The Lord has not, and will not, add a saved individual to any church He did not build. Thus, the scriptures do **not** support the notion of the authors that "God has His people in all churches." Such is wishful thinking on the part of the authors in an effort to placate those who differ with their conclusions.

The authors continue by stating: "God looks at the heart and judges people on an individual basis, according to their sincerity." Again, there is no scripture given to justify their statement. If the basis of salvation were "sincerity" there would be many who would be saved who **never** respond to the gospel message. Saul of Tarsus was sincere when he was persecuting the Jews - but he was wrong, he was lost, he was in his sins. Thus, even after believing that Jesus was the Lord (Acts 9) he had to "*wash away*" his sins (Acts 22:16). Jesus said: "*he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). Also, the Hebrew writer states: "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Hebrews 5:8-9). Clearly, sincerity is not enough for one can be sincerely wrong. To be saved one **must** be obedient.

Again, the authors state: "I have many wonderful Catholic friends who are dedicated Christians. I also have many sincere Christian friends who are Sunday-keeping Protestants. I don't agree with either group about the Sabbath issue, but God did not appoint me to judge any of them." Again, no scripture is given to support this belief. True, the scriptures teach: "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). However, the context shows that there is some judgment that Christians **must** engage in (Matthew 7:1-6). Jesus taught: "*Judge not according to the*

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett's mother, Kathy Treadway's mother and Bronwen Gibson's mother (Lavonne McClish) - who has continued health - related issues and who is undergoing pain management therapy; and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer.

Jack Peebles is still in the Mattie C. Hall Care Center in Aiken, room 301. Continue to keep Jack and Jean and their family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Jim Gibson has been having eye problems again and thus the Gibsons were not able to be out Sunday night or Wednesday night.

It was good to see Helen Culpepper who was able to be with us on Wednesday evening.

Justine Hall's granddaughter, Michelle Bunch, has given birth to a girl, Mary Ann. The baby was born with a heart defect and is in MCG. Keep them in your prayers.

Our next pot luck meal will be after the morning worship on August 26.

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*appearance, but judge righteous judgment*" (John 7:24). Judgment is to be made, not on appearance (whether one seems to be sincere) but on the base of the Word of God for all His commandments are righteousness (Psalm 119:172).

The authors then state that the purpose of chapter 8 is "to present published claims of the Papal system regarding Sunday-keeping and Protestantism." It is amazing that at the beginning of the chapter the authors state that they "disagree with the position of authority on which this religious system things to stand" yet they seek justification of their position regarding the Sabbath based on the claims of the Roman Catholic Church. That same church claims to have authority for its "Papal system." The authors expect their readers to reject the claims on the Roman Catholic Church for its "Papal system" while at the same time accepting the claims of the same organization with respect to the matter of the Sabbath that the Roman Catholic Church claims to have changed from the Seventh day of the week (Saturday) to the first day of the week (Sunday). Why should their claims for one be accepted but their claims for the other be rejected?

Further, whatever the Roman Catholic Church may claim about **any** subject is **not** the authority in matters of religion. It is God's Word that is truth (John 17:17) - **not** the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church or the teaching of Danny Shelton and Shelley Quinn, the authors of the book we have been reviewing or, indeed, of any other individual or man-made religious group.

As we have examined the teaching of the book "Ten Commandments Twice Removed," we have seen that they have failed to prove that Christians are to keep the Sabbath as the day of Christian worship. In our final article we will note their summary of what they claim is "Bible evidence for their teaching.

*Ken Chambley*