

CAN HE DEPEND ON YOU?

The above is the title of a song written by Wilken (Big Chief) Bacon, and the chorus reminds those who would enter into Heaven of several truths. The words of the chorus are as follows:

Can He depend on you,
His blessed will to do?
Will you be crowned with
the faithful and true,
Can He depend on you?

The very first line of the chorus should demand the full attention of one who is a child of God. “**Can He depend on you?**” Webster defines *depend* as follows: “to rely; to rest with confidence; to trust; to confide; to have full confidence or belief.” Can God rely upon us to carry on the work of the church? Can He be confident that we will continue to “walk in the light, as he is in the light” (1 John 1:7)? We depend on God to keep His promises because He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18). His divine attributes never change (Mal. 3:6)! The apostle Peter declared that “the word of the Lord abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:25). The Psalmist says, “the sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances *endureth* for ever” (Psa. 119:160). God has always been and will always be “faithful and true” (Rev. 3:14). You and I can depend on God, but can He depend on us?

The second line of the chorus makes us aware that one must obey the Father’s will. The Lord admonishes: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Mat. 7:21). Jesus is our example in all areas and “though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered” (Heb. 5:8). The Son of God does not hesitate in stating that His “meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work” (John 4:34). The Lord also said, “I can of myself do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is righteous; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 5:30). Shortly before His death Jesus said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; remove this cup from me: howbeit not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:36).

One cannot claim that he does not know what the will of the Lord is. The apostle Paul admonishes, “Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). When we petition the Father we are to “ask anything according to his will” (1 John 5:14). The big question—can He depend on you and me to know and do His will?

The third line of the chorus asks a soul searching question—will you be crowned with the faithful and true? The majority of folks today say it is no big deal and it really does not matter. But the Holy Scriptures beg to differ—it does indeed matter as to the destiny of one’s soul. Did the rich man’s eternal destiny matter to him? Absolutely! The Bible says, “And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things: but now here he is comforted and thou art in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, that they that would pass from hence to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us. And he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment” (Luke 16:23-28). If you and I are to avoid eternal torment and be crowned with the faithful and true we must:

- Have the proper priorities (Mat. 6:33).
- Love God with all our being (Mat. 22:37).
- Worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
- Love not the world (1 John 2:15).
- Believe not every teacher (1 John 4:1).
- Be a faithful steward (1 Cor. 4:2).
- **Always** speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
- Be doers, not just hearers (Jam. 1:22).
- Keep God’s commandments (1 John 5:3).
- Sow bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6).
- Give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7).
- Watch (be prepared) (Mat. 24:42).
- Sow to the Spirit (Gal. 6:8).
- Never grow weary in well doing (Gal. 6:9).
- Seek the things above (Col. 3:1).
- Deny self and take up cross daily (Luke 9:23).
- Be faithful even unto death (Rev. 2:10).

The above list is not exhaustive but it reminds us we must labor in the kingdom. Can He depend on you?

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BELVEDERE BEACON

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

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The Company I Keep

Throughout the Bible the company a person keeps has been very important. Paul states a universal principle in I Corinthians 15:33: “*Evil companionships corrupt good morals*” (ASV). Indeed this has been the case in every generation.

Consider that God’s people were forbidden to marry pagan tribes. God knew that being around idolaters would turn them away from God. This was a great problem with Solomon. “*But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonites, and Hittites;...And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart*” (I Kings 11:1,3). Had he not so closely aligned himself with sin and with the foreign women and the ways of the world, he would have stayed strong for God. James stated a great truth that applies to Solomon and many today: “*Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*” (James 4:4).

The company we keep is, therefore, important to God. The company we keep is also important to God. The company we keep is also important to the church and the elders. When Paul spoke to the Ephesian eldership, he told them, he told them: “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*” (Acts 20:28). *Take heed* means the eldership needs to be watching the church much like a shepherd watches his sheep to make sure a wolf does not devour them.

What kind of company do you keep? Are you found often in bars, drinking, dancing around people of a rough nature. It is God who knows your heart. God knows you better than you do. What does God think of the company you keep? He did not like the company Solomon kept. God tells us that we are not to be “*unequally yoked together with unbelievers*” (II Corinthians 6:14). Paul is simply advising of an unequal alliance with people who are not Christians. Paul, no doubt, knew about Solomon, and did not want Christians to turn away from God.

Let us all beware of the company we keep. God loves us. He wants all of us to be in Heaven with Him. He desires that we follow His ways. We cannot do that if we let the wrong people influence us. If we stray God is willing to welcome us back.

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Vienna, IL

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.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

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A NEW WOMAN “BISHOP” SPEAKS AND SHOWS HER IGNORANCE!

Article VI of the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion of the Episcopal Church states: “Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be

thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.”

This past week the 2.3 million member denomination, part of the “Worldwide Anglican Communion”, elected a new leader, Katherine Jefferts Schori. bishop of the Diocese of Nevada. Now, right there, we see a failure to follow the teaching of Article VI, above, for were this denomination following that teaching they would never have a woman in a position of leadership not have an Episcopal system with one “bishop” over a Diocese for the Holy Scriptures do **NOT** contain such things. However, there are some statements that she has made in an interview with CNN following her election that I want to note at this time.

She was asked whether it was a sin to be a homosexual, she replied, “I don’t believe so. I believe that God creates us with different gifts. Each one of us comes into this world with a different collection of things that challenge us and things that give us joy and allow us to bless the world around us.” She continued, “Some people come into this world with affections ordered toward other people of the same gender and some people come into this world with affections directed at people of the other gender. The Episcopal church is divided over the issue of homosexuality. A year or two ago there was a big furor over the appointment of a homosexual as a bishop and there has been talk of a division. Those who were opposed to that appointment were opposed because of the teaching of the Scripture, even as there have been those opposed to women “clergy” because of the teaching of the Bible. A number are threatening to break away and form a separate church. The Episcopal Church needs to follow its own teaching. Either the Bible approves and condones homosexuality or it condemns it, they can’t have it both ways.

When the “bishop” was asked about the passages in the Bible that declare sexual relationships between those of the same sex as being an “abomination”, she said that the Bible was written in a very different historical context by people asking different questions. She further stated, The Bible has a great deal to teach us about how to live as human beings. The Bible does not have so much to teach us about what sorts of foods to eat, what sorts of clothes to wear -- there are rules in the Bible about those that we don’t observe today.” She also added, “The Bible tells us about how to treat other human beings, and that’s certainly the great message of Jesus -- to include the unincorporated.”

Clearly, this “bishop” has no earthly idea how to establish Biblical authority to be able to determine that which is binding and that which is not, that which is a part of the Old covenant alone and those things that are found in the New Testament, but this will not be discussed at this time. Note what she said in reply to the fact that the Bible calls homosexual relationships an abomination. She declared that the Bible was written “in a very different historical context.” So, according to her, because it was written in a different historical age, its teaching is not binding. By so stating, she completely denies the teaching of Article VI of the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion and effectively states that the Bible **cannot** be used as an authoritative source. She also states that it was written “by people asking different questions” and, in so doing, denies the Inspiration of the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit. Further, she states that the great message of Jesus was “how to treat other human beings.” Perhaps she needs to read the words of Jesus as to why He came for although He did teach how we are to treat others, His purpose in coming was to “seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

One final point the learned “bishop” believes people are “come into this world with affections ordered toward other people of the same gender.” Such would indicate that they are created by God that way. But God created Adam and Eve, “male and female” (Genesis 1:27) not Adam and Steve. Further, if they are so “ordered” they could not change. However, those who had practiced such abominations **DID** change (I Corinthians 6: 9-11).

The “learned” “bishop” is **NOT** therefore learned in the Holy Scriptures that “containeth all things necessary to salvation.” Those who follow her lead will find that she has taken them through the wide gate and into the broad way that leadeth to destruction (Matthew 7:13).

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lanny Niver’s father, Tim Arnold’s father.

Continue to keep Ted Rush, preacher at Mauldin, SC. as he continues to recuperate from heart surgery. He is doing well. He plans to preach this morning for the first time since his surgery.

There will be a finger food and ice cream potluck after services this evening. Plan to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship.

LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM
1050 AM -- WFAM
Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

A GREAT DIFFERENCE

An English write has said, “The early Christians did not go around saying, ‘Look what the world is come to.’ Rather they went our with great joy and said to all men, ‘Look what has come to the world!’”

There is a great difference between these two attitudes. Yes, the world *is* in bad shape - - but read the second chapter of Romans and you will find that the world was in an awful condition in Paul’s time. Nearly all thoughtful men agree that man is in a terrible predicament, but the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ offers the solution to man’s problems.

Look! See what has come into the world -- God’s revelation of himself in all His power, wisdom, and love through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. That is indeed glorious news! That is a message which we cannot keep to ourselves, but we must tell everybody about it. No wonder Christians are radiant with joy. They have found the treasure all men are seeking. They have seen what has come into the world in the advent of Jesus Christ, and they are working for the advancement of His kingdom until He comes again.

Author Unknown