

What Bothers The Preacher

Preachers are men who are looked up to by almost everyone, by both those within and without the church. Great numbers of men and women in the church are amazed at preachers, commending them in several ways, from how well preachers can recall Bible verses to how they can always listen and deal with the problems of others and how nothing seems to bother them.

If preachers were as unbothered as most seem to believe, we would surely be a miserable lot. However, preachers are bothered and are probably more easily than others. Preachers probably have more "bothers" than most folks.

Preachers, you see, are "bothered" by a great number of things most Christians are not. Preachers are not pessimistic, but realistic. Preachers seem to consider things more seriously than most folks.

For example, preachers are more concerned when brethren are unfaithful. Preachers are more concerned when brethren allow a sniffle to become a life threatening illness which causes them to stay home, but take the same sniffles to work or shopping. Preachers are concerned when brethren stay up too late Saturday night to awaken Sunday morning to attend worship and Bible Study. Preachers are bothered when brethren justify their apostate unfaithfulness on Sunday and Wednesday evenings with the excuse of having to "work tomorrow", or "its been a long day and I'm too tired to go." Preachers are bothered when those who are "too tired" are not too tired to watch T.V.

Preachers are bothered when some do not concern themselves with Bible classes because they say, "I don't understand it anyway", when in reality they are just too lazy to get to class and do not have a love of the truth. Preachers are bothered when families stay home Wednesday evenings because the kids have homework: Have you cut Matthew 6:33 out of your Bible? What is this teaching your children? I wonder what the preachers' kids do when they have homework on Wednesday? Preachers are bothered when brethren come to class and worship without a Bible and haven't even picked up their Bibles during the week, let alone studied for the lesson.

Preachers are bothered when morality is set aside by parents who let their children attend dances and dress in next to nothing at public pools. Preachers are bothered when unfaithful members are not bothered about sin and act as if everything is just fine. Preachers are bothered when members wear their feelings too close to their skin and become mad and hurt when the preacher tries to help correct a sin in their life. Preachers are bothered when disgruntled members gossip on the phone with all their complaints and do not follow Matthew 18:15!

Preachers are bothered when brethren are unconcerned with the sick, unfaithful, and the Lord's work in general. Preachers are bothered when brethren walk as close to apostasy as they can with the attitude of security. Preachers are bothered when brethren just refuse to do good! Preachers are bothered when brethren don't care one whit about being involved in any way or any thing concerning the work of the church. Preachers are bothered when brethren choose not to be with fellow brethren at every opportunity, but will spend hours socializing with the heathen of this world.

Preachers are bothered when spineless, passive, unqualified elders are set in elderships in which they have no business. Preachers are bothered when elders who know better refuse to stand up for the truth and support the preacher in the truth. Preachers are bothered when elders choose to fire the preacher rather than "face the music" of a congregation's real problem.

Preachers are bothered when other preachers(?) preach watered-down lessons and refuse to preach needed truth. Preachers are bothered when other preachers(?) put their jobs over and above the need of preaching the truth. Preachers are bothered at preachers(?) who just do not love the truth, the church, the brethren and the souls of the lost enough to "declare all the gospel" at the needed time.

Preachers are bothered when brethren are upset with the preacher for stating why preachers get upset! Preachers are most bothered when the brethren choose not to replace the word "preacher" in this article with their own names! Brother, DOES SIN BOTHER YOU? Do you think you are going to heaven with any one of these things in your life that bother the preacher?

Preachers are bothered when brethren will not repent of the sin in their lives that they know is there. Now read 2 Corinthians 5:11!

Daniel Coe
Mountainburg, AR

BELVEDERE BEACON

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

Volume 7

Number 19

May 7, 2006

A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST

535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

(Greater Augusta, GA area)

Is Jesus "Zeus"?

Alexander Pope wrote, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." This is true in all fields, but perhaps none more than religion. There exists a movement claiming that it is not lawful to refer to the Creator of the Universe as God, nor to refer to His only begotten Son as Jesus, but rather they must both be called by their Hebrew names. Which Hebrew name to use is a matter of dispute among them. Some say 'Jehovah,' others 'Yahweh' or 'Yahveh' for God; for the Son, they use everything from 'Yahshua,' to 'Yehoshua,' 'Y'shua,' 'Yeshua' or 'YAHU'SHUAH,' and every other name is unacceptable.[1]

From whence did the name 'Jesus' come? Again, this is subject to a great deal of variation; it has been given supposed derivations from 'hay-horse' to 'earth-pig,' based on the appearance of those words in one language or another (sometimes in several languages put together at the same time). One group (which also claims that Vancouver BC is the center of Biblical revelation) states that "Jesus Christ" (in any language, surprisingly) is the name of a demon. The majority of the "Sacred Name movement," however, claims that, at some ancient time, all Bible manuscripts were altered to honor 'Healing Zeus' by removing 'YAH' or 'JAH' from Old Testament names (like Elijah, 'Jehovah is God') and substituting 'Zeus,' the head of Greek mythology. Is there any substance to these claims?

First, it is a ridiculous claim that 'all ancient Biblical manuscripts were altered.' [2] There are tens of thousands of New Testament manuscripts, some of which were buried before the rise of whichever organization is being accused of this alteration, and not found again until modern times; not a single one contains a Hebrew name for Jesus, as they were all written in Greek. Why would somebody go through the trouble of making such an alteration, anyway, when the easier solution would have been either to destroy the texts or change them completely, so that 'Yeshua Messiah' would have bowed before a statue of Zeus?

Second, the similarity between the names "Jesus" and "Zeus" exist primarily in English; in Greek, they bear even less of a resemblance ('Ihsou?j vs. Zeu?j in the nominative case; 'Ihsou? vs. Dio<j in the genitive case). The main similarity becomes the '-us' ending, which most nouns in the Greek language possess.

Continued on page 3

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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

www.belvederechurchofchrist.org E-mail church@belvederechurchofchrist.org

This week, instead of an editorial, we are including a poem written by my good friend and fellow gospel preacher, Tim Smith who writes poetry under a pen name.

TRUE.....

You can't be ev'rything to ev'ryone these days it seems,
So just do ev'rything you can to be what you should be;
Just live and love and hope and pray and do your very best
To stand up through the storms of life and be up to the test.

Look up to Him Who died for you and watches from on high,
And always try to do the things that you know to be right,
He'll help you anyway He can, if help is what you need;
But from some troubles you should know you never will be freed.

And such is as it should be, for we all must live and learn
There's always something off somewhere for which some heart will
yearn;
When you quit yearning you quit living, so you see my friend:
Your life is just one long pursuit of nothing but its end.

The most important thing you'll do in this life is die right,
The only way you'll do that is by walking in the Light.
So be there for the ones you love and help them on their way,
And make decisions that are right; those are the dues we pay.

You can't be ev'rything to ev'ryone don't even try,
Just be the person you should be until the day you die.
Just live and love and hope and pray and do your very best
To stand up through the storms of life and be up to the test...

- H. L. Gradowith

For more information on H. L. Gradowith and GRADOWITH POEMS e-mail group visit <http://www.geocities.com/fp5699/> - the website of Tim Smith, minister of the Enon church of Christ in Webb, AL.

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.

Tim Arnold's father has been released from the hospital but has gone to a nursing home for a while.

Sickness has been in the Arnold family. Ethan was sick Sunday and Noah on Wednesday.

Sister Culpepper was not able to be out Sunday and Les was not well Wednesday evening.

Odie McLemore's brother is hospitalized in Alabama. Odie and Dot have gone to see him.

Ted Rush, preacher for the Mauldin, SC church is now home from the hospital and is doing well following his heart surgery. He appreciates the prayers that have been made and solicits your continued prayers for his progress.

LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM

1050 AM -- WFAM

Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

Is Jesus "Zeus"? Continued from page 1

So how did we get from the Hebrew 'Yeshua' (or some other variation) to the English 'Jesus'? When Hebrew writers tried to communicate to Greek readers, words were translated into Greek; names, on the other hand, had to be transliterated; that is, written in letters that would be pronounced as closely as possible to the original language.[3] 'Yeshua'[4] was rendered as 'Iesous,' because Greek has neither a 'y' sound nor a 'sh' sound. Ancient Greek speakers would have been incapable of either writing or pronouncing the Hebrew form of that name! The final 'a' was changed to 's' to fit Greek grammatical rules, not to honor any pagan deity. 'Iesous' was transliterated into English as 'Iesus,' and finally, with the invention of the letter 'J,' to 'Jesus.'

In conclusion, the inspired writers of the New Testament didn't write of Him as 'Yeshua,' but rather by the equivalent form in that language; we do the same when we call Him 'Jesus.'

Timothy W. Carignan
Covington, IN

[1] This is similar to Islam, which claims that all prayers and Koran reading must be done in Arabic, even if the Muslim does not understand that language.

[2] Nevertheless, this is a claim made by countless groups, teaching such doctrines as Islam, reincarnation or only one in the Godhead: "The Bible used to teach [insert doctrine here], but [insert name of enemy here] changed it!" There is never evidence presented for this claim, nor can there be. In truth, this is an admission that the Bible does not teach their doctrine.

[3] This is how the name 'John' came to be 'Ivan' in Russian, 'Juan' in Spanish, and 'Johann' in German. There is not always 'one true way' to transliterate; Khrushchev, the Russian premier of the 1960's, is rendered in British English as 'Hrushchev,' which is actually closer to, though still not identical to, the Russian pronunciation.

[4] This in itself is a transliteration, from Hebrew into English, of one of several variations of the name usually translated in the Old Testament as 'Joshua.'