

# University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

January 18, 2009

## The Doctrine of Christ

**John 7:16** “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself”

In order to remain free from guilt as wrongdoers the faithful must abide in the doctrine of Christ and must not associate with, encourage or support those that do not live and teach the doctrine of Christ.

**2 John 1:9** “Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, has not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If there comes any to you, and brings not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

The people that heard Jesus speak were astonished at His doctrine.

**Matthew 7:24** “Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened to a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.”

One thing that surprised and impressed the people about the teaching of Jesus is that it was so easy to understand and so obviously true. An example of that is the argument that Jesus made proving that the Bible teaches that our relationship with God does not end with death.

**Matthew 22:31** “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. 33 And when the multitude heard [this], they were astonished at his doctrine.”

The intention of God was to make the doctrine of Christ as effective as possible in guiding the thinking and the behavior of the faithful. Because of the influence of the doctrine of Christ in their thinking and actions the faithful are sensible, upright, honest people. They speak the truth. They not only do not lie they also do not steal. They are not empty minded people floundering through life groping in darkness and confusion following the delusions of this world. Because of the influence of the doctrine of Christ in their lives the faithful are not driven by unlawful passions of the flesh or of the mind. Their mouths speak good things. Their hands do good things. They are quiet and hard working. Their anger is soon driven away. They do not provide shelter for the devil. They work to provide help for the needy. They are kind, tender hearted and forgiving. They are both good and godly. All of this is because of the influence of the doctrine of Christ in their lives.

**Ephesians 4:11** “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love. 17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ: 21 If so be that you have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands the thing, which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that, which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers. 30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed to the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children:”

To understand just exactly how astonishing the doctrine of Christ is, compare the results of following the doctrine of Christ to following anything else that you know about. Those who follow the doctrine of Christ are not terrorists. They are not predators. They are not fornicators, adulterers or drunkards. They are not responsible for the spread of the destroying plague, of sexually transmitted diseases now blanketing and bankrupting the earth. They are not substance abusers. They are sober minded, honest, hard working, church going people who serve God according to the doctrine of Christ that is preserved in the New Testament. They can be trusted to be upright and honest. Because it is God they serve they can be trusted all the time, day or night, at home or away. Those who follow the doctrine of Christ are people who, as they recognize their sins, turn away from their sins and stop doing those sins so that they can be forgiven and be pleasing to God in all things. They abide in the doctrine of Christ, and as Jesus said they would, they know that the doctrine of Christ is of God. John 7:16-17

## Remember To Pray For

Julie Spivey and Jackson Scott Spivey  
Mildred Collins, David's mother is to undergo thyroid surgery  
Dallis and Alma Isaacs  
Francis Nations  
Mary Jane Frost  
Melanie Bilye  
Rick Shamas  
Bonnie Wells  
Sarah Phillips  
Carol Bach  
Edith Tirey  
Lucy Hale  
Pamela Clayton  
Ella Wells, and her family  
Lorene Pagan  
Freddie Ward  
David and Chessie Harwell  
Donna Caldwell  
Mabel Greene  
Tony Tyree  
Ruth Brundige  
Cindy Miller  
Christie Ellis  
Shirley Lewis  
Brady Gibbons  
Gail Hunter  
Larry Flannery  
Donnie Joseph  
Cheryl Spear  
Lanny Hiller  
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox  
Helen Stephens  
Chris Handshoe  
Jeffrey Howerton  
Addison Pervine  
Tom Kemp  
Freda Blakey

"Right" is that which if everybody always does life gets better and better.

"Wrong" is that which if everybody always does life gets worse and worse.

I wonder what would have happened, if Eve had been absolutely determined that she did not desire to experience anything that God did not want her to experience?

Would Eve have been better off or worse off?

I wonder what will happen if each of us becomes absolutely determined that we do not desire to experience anything that God does not want us to experience?

Will we be better off or worse off?

## Thoughts

There is a war going on here and the children of God are right in the middle of it, although it sometimes seems hard to understand that. One reason that the fight is hard to recognize is because the fight that we are in is not a fight that is fought with guns, armored tanks or high explosives. And the equipment that God provides us with which to fight, is not equipment to fight that kind of fight.

**Ephesians 6:11** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

What we are trying to do is learn, obey and teach God's revealed will. What our adversary is attempting to do is get us to do anything else in the world other than that. God has given us the equipment we need to overcome the devil and do God's will but we can only succeed if we use the equipment that God has given us, all of it. We must have truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God and prayer in order to survive this fight.

**Ephesians 6:13** "Wherefore take to you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

If we are not very dedicated to truth, or to righteousness, and not very involved in the preparation of the gospel of peace, not very faithful, not willing to become familiar with the word of God and do not pray very much for God's children there is not a chance that we are going to survive the fight. Without God's armor we cannot successfully serve God. When Jesus squared off with Satan Jesus had and used in the fight all of the above mentioned equipment. (Matthew 4) So must we. If Jesus needed that equipment in order to win we need that equipment in order to win and absolutely will not be able to win without it.

**The happy thing is** that we can take the whole armor of God and we can withstand in the evil day. God intends for us to do that. God intends for us to stand against unimaginable odds, in situations where we have no logical expectation of success except by the power of God through the armor God has given.

God's word, when it is in both the mouths and also in the lives of God's people, is powerful against sin and against every false thing beyond our wildest imaginations. By using the equipment God has given the children of God can put the devil to flight and come ever nearer to God.

**James 4: 7** "Be subject therefore to God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

## Notes

There is a special men's business meeting today at 4:00PM  
The informational meeting will be next Sunday January 25 at 4:30PM  
The informational meeting this month will cover both December 2008 and January 2009

Remember the lists on the bulletin boards for maintenance items needing attention and for song suggestions for the first Friday evening singing

Jesus expected all of the Jews to understand the Law of Moses alike  
**Luke 10: 26** "He said to him, What is written in the law? How read you?"  
**Matthew 21: 16** "And Jesus said to them, Yes; have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have perfected praise?"  
**Matthew 21: 42** "Jesus said to them, did you never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

## **Schedule of Services**

### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am  
Worship Service 10:45am

### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

### Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

## **University Heights Church of Christ**

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AND WORSHIP WITH US

HELP GOD'S WORD GROW  
LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT