

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

January 4, 2009

Lest Any Man Beguile You

Colossians 2:4 “*And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk you in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*”

How may I avoid being beguiled with enticing words of speculative inquiries and empty untruth from the popular practices of humans and the principles that the world sees as basic and not after Christ? Paul was concerned that the Colossian Christians could not succeed in doing that. **I should be concerned** that I will not be able to succeed in doing that and I should spend considerable time considering God’s word and from it developing a plan by which to succeed in avoiding being deceived by false reasoning and **thereby robbed of my relationship with God.**

Paul stated it in this passage. I must continue to walk in the things that I have received from the faithful apostles of the first century AD. (Verse 6) I must continue with thanksgiving, to be built up in the teachings of those inspired apostles. (Verse 7) I must avoid everything that is not from Jesus Christ. For me here today that means that **I must know, understand and obey the New Testament only.** Today there is no way to be taught by the faithful apostles of Jesus but by reading the New Testament. There is no other source on earth from which to learn the teachings of the inspired apostles of the first century but from their writings that are preserved in the New Testament. It is from the New Testament and only from the New Testament that I can learn what is God’s will for me today. **The New Testament allows me to identify what is of Christ because that is what the New Testament is all about.** I must not participate in what is not of Christ so I must not participate in what is not taught in the New Testament. I must be very careful about what church I am associated with. I must use the New Testament to determine that. **As I compare a church to the New Testament there are things that let me know that a church is or is not following the New Testament only.**

- **What it calls itself** because most names of most churches are not used to refer to the church in the New Testament and **a faithful church will not call itself by names that the New Testament writers did not use to refer to the Lord’s church.**
- **What it celebrates or memorializes** because most of the things that most churches celebrate or memorialize were not celebrated or memorialized in the New Testament. An example is the birth of Jesus. The New Testament teaches us to celebrate and memorialize the death and resurrection of Jesus but not His birth. **If we obey the New Testament we will not celebrate or memorialize the birth of Jesus.**
- **How it worships** because most of the worship practices of most churches are not taught in the New Testament. The New Testament teaches that we now here on earth are to sing in worship (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16) and **nowhere does the New Testament teach that instrumental music should be used in worship here and now. The New Testament also teaches nothing about lighting candles or burning incense or parading up and down in the church building.**
- **Who it fellowships** because many churches extend fellowship to open unrepentant sinners that **the New Testament teaches must either stop sinning or be excluded from the fellowship of the faithful.**
- **What it wears** because the New Testament teaches nothing about **religious garbs or uniforms.**
- **Its offices** because most of the offices in most churches are not found in the New Testament. In the New Testament there are overseers and approved servants associated with a local church. There are preachers and teachers. All of these are members of the church and are used as qualified and needed. **There is no “clergy/laity” system in the New Testament. In the New Testament there are Christians.**
- **Its officers** because most of the officers in most of the churches are not found in the New Testament. **They are the inventions of human minds not the result of the inspiration of God.** In the case of two offices that are mentioned in the New Testament (elders and deacons) it is usually the practice to **ignore the qualifications that the New Testament gives for a person serving.** The offices of elders and deacons are in most churches, **filled with people that are not, according to the New Testament, qualified to be in the offices.**
- **Its leaders** because very often the leaders of the popular religions of this world **are doing everything in the world but walking in the footsteps of Jesus by obeying the New Testament.** Often they are following in the footsteps of the sinners whom Jesus reproved.
- **Its teachings** because most of the teaching in most religions has to do with **doctrines and traditions of human origin that are not found in the New Testament.**
- **Its organizational structure** because very few religions are organized in the pattern found in the New Testament. **In the New Testament there is no organizational structure on earth but the local church.** The churches in the New Testament had no headquarters on earth and no local church was over any other local church. In the New Testament there is no means by which to coordinate local churches to act as a single unit in any work. **In the New Testament each church under its own local overseers did its own work.** They duplicated each other’s works. (1Corinthians 16:1)
- **Its source of authority** because according to the New Testament **the New Testament is the only lawful source of religious authority on earth today.** It is only through the words of the apostles preserved in the New Testament that all may believe and that **all believers may be one as are the Father and the Son.** (John 17:20, 21)
- **Its purity** because a faithful church is made up of **repentant, baptized believers who are busy making their lives conform to the teachings of the apostles that are preserved in the New Testament.** They may have once been fornicators or thieves or liars, but they have stopped fornicating or stealing or lying and are determined not to do those things again. They may once have been dangerous predators, but now are sheep of God’s fold, because in order to continue in the grace of God, **they are now being guided by the New Testament, to study and repent, and study and repent, and study and repent in order to walk ever closer to God.**

Remember To Pray For

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
Marian Lyda
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

We need to pray for the word of God that it will grow and prosper exceedingly in every human heart. The greatest blessings that God has to offer humankind are had through knowledge of, belief in, and obedience to, the revealed word of God.

There are things sin causes in lives that are not going to be reversed because a person becomes a repentant, baptized believer. A person with AIDS is still going to have AIDS after they become a Christian, but, after they become a Christian they are not going to continue to behave in such a way that they run the risk of infecting others with the disease.

THE WORD OF GOD CHANGES HEARTS AND EVERY HUMAN HEART NEEDS TO BE CHANGED BY THE WORD OF GOD. PRAY FOR THE WORD.

Thoughts

The word that is translated "resolved" in **Luke 16:4** "*I am resolved what to do*" is used 223 times in the Greek text of the KJV of the New Testament and is translated "*know*" 196 times "*perceive*" 9 times and "*understand*" 8 times. A "*resolution*" as in "*New Year's Resolution*" is a statement of what I have come to know that I need to do. Christians probably make fewer New Year's resolutions than any group of humans on earth. The reason for that lack of New Years resolutions is that the resolutions are being made everyday all year as it is recognized that a change of some kind needs to be made that will repair or improve some part of a Christian's relationship to God. With Christians things that need to be fixed do not remain unfixed because Christians are aware of the necessity of growing from the word of God.

2 Peter 2:2 "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*"

They are also aware of the need to grow to a level of Bible knowledge that will allow them to be able to use the "meat" of the word as well as the milk.

Hebrews 5:12 "*For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that uses milk [is] unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*"

The Bible makes us understand that the time to be ready for the return of the Lord is now.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 "*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*

It is the constant responsibility of each of us to constantly examine ourselves to make sure that we are in the faith so that Christ will be in us.

2 Corinthians 13:5 "*Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?*"

We are seeking everyday to use the word of God to make us what Jesus Christ is.

Ephesians 4:13 "*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.*"

Ephesians 4:15 "*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ.*"

FOR US EVERYDAY IS RESOLUTION DAY. WHAT NEEDS FIXING NEEDS FIXING THE MINUTE I REALIZE IT NEEDS FIXING.

Notes

The men's business meeting will be next Sunday at 3:00PM

Every world leader needs to read the Holy Bible morning, noon and night.
The world needs that.
Picture it and pray for it.

If the New Testament influenced every human decision on earth there would be no HIV/AIDS, no drunkenness, no lies, no fornication, no illegitimate births, no divorce, no crime, no corruption, no murders, no wars, no exploitation, no cheating, no waste.

What would this world do with all of its extra time, money and goods if everyone began to follow the New Testament?

Jesus is the **ONLY** answer to the problem of the need for eternal salvation from the guilt of sin and His teachings are the **BEST** answer for all of the rest of the problems humankind faces on this earth.

Obedying the New Testament makes a person upright, honest and honorable.

The only weapon that the kingdom of Jesus Christ has ever used is the word of God.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

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

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies (all ages) 7:30 PM

Monthly Song Service

First Friday each month 7:30 PM

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP WITH US

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