

# University Heights Church of Christ

## BULLETIN

February 1, 2009

### All Believers Believe Alike?

If God wished, could God produce a book that all believers could believe alike so that believers could all be one as the Father and the Son are one? Many religious people say no. Some equally religious people say that even if God could produce such a book it would not be desirable for God to do so because "diversity is good" and "uniformity is bad".

Before His death Jesus indicated that God would produce such a book.

John 17:20 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as you, Father, [are] in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The statement of Jesus indicates that the words of the faithful apostles of the first century were going to be preserved and continue to be available to inspire saving faith to every generation long after the apostles themselves were dead. The only place that those faith inspiring words were preserved was in the New Testament. Those words have inspired, informed and convicted every generation, from the time when the apostles were alive and spoke and wrote, until now. We have the faith inspiring words of the inspired apostles preserved in the New Testament. It is the New Testament that Jesus claimed could make believers one as the Father and Son are one. The thought expressed in the prayer of Jesus is the thought that, by the preserved words of the inspired apostles, believers can be one, as are the Father and the Son.

The writings of the faithful apostles of the first century indicate that God was producing such a book.

The apostle Paul was very much aware that what he said and wrote was the word of God and commended the Thessalonian Christians for also understanding that.

1Thessalonians 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe."

Peter affirmed that all of the letters of Paul were "scriptures" that the unstable twisted as they did the "other scriptures".

2Peter 3:15 "And account [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given to him has written to you; 16 As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, to their own destruction."

As the inspired letters were being written they were also being copied and collections of the copies were being made and preserved by the believers. That is indicated by the fact that Peter could speak with assurance of the contents of "all of the letters" of the apostle Paul, none of which were addressed to the apostle Peter. It is a serious mistake to imagine that the inspired letters of the apostles of Jesus were not copied multitudes of times and thousands of collections of the copies made by the Christians of the first century AD. Those Christians certainly would have been no less anxious to own copies of the inspired New Testament books than we are. The fact that the copies had to be done by hand was not a hindrance to obtaining copies of the letters, since everything done in the first century was done by hand. Every part of every economy on earth in the first century AD was geared completely to handwork.

Jude said that at the time he wrote "the faith" had already been delivered to the saints and what remained was for the saints to "contend earnestly" for the "once delivered" faith.

Jude 3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write to you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write to you, and exhort [you] that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

The apostle John knew and affirmed that what he wrote was the word of God.

Revelation 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show to his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel to his servant John: 2 Who bore record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw."

The writings of those who followed the apostles indicate that God had produced an inspired book by preserving the writings of the inspired apostles in the hands of the Christians that lived after the apostles. Those Christians quoted the writings of the apostles as the word of God. See the writings of Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian and others of the first, second and third centuries AD, who all respected the writings of the apostles as the inspired word of God.

From the beginning commentators on the inspired texts disagreed with each other greatly over what should be the correct interpretation of the statements in the New Testament. Different commentators were able to quickly come up with all of the misconceptions that are common today. They stumbled over the same scriptures that we do and for the same reasons and with the same results. That is a comfort because that means that the same scriptures that are obscure and difficult today have been obscure and difficult from the beginning. The New Testament text has not been corrupted.

But could God produce a book by which all believers could be one? Did God produce a book by which all believers could be one? If God did produce such a book is the New Testament that book? Certainly there is no other book on earth that has the support of the prophecies and symbols of the Hebrew Scriptures. Only the Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament qualify to be products of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If there is a book by which all believers can be one as the Father and the Son are one it has to be the New Testament. No other book on earth has the support of the Old Testament prophecies and of the prophetic symbols.

Why are not people made one by the New Testament as the Father and the Son are one? In the parable of the sower three fourths of the seed bore no fruit. (Matthew 13:18-23; Luke 8:11-15) Why? It is for those reasons that people are not made one by the New Testament as the Father and the Son are one. Those of good and honest heart will be made one by the New Testament as the Father and the Son are one.

Only believers of the New Testament can be one as are the Father and the Son. To believe one must know and understand. You cannot believe what you do not know and therefore do not understand. When all know and understand all agree. Baptism, music for worship, lying, fornication, lust, greed, pride and Jesus Christ are all areas in which all become one as the Father and the Son are one when all know, understand and by that knowledge believe what the New Testament teaches. Jesus prayed for "those, which shall believe on me". It is those believers who, by the words of the apostles, may be one as are the Father and the Son. We have the words, the challenge for each of us is to each fulfil the prayer of Jesus.

## Remember To Pray For

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  
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

In discussing music in worship, humans place the emphasis on the quality of the sound or on the emotional effect.

"I like it, it sounds so good."

In the worship of the New Testament churches God placed the emphasis on using music to teach.

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

ONLY SINGING WORDS  
THAT EXPRESS THOUGHTS,  
TEACHES AND ACCORDING TO  
GOD TEACHING IS WHAT THE  
MUSIC OF WORSHIP IS TO DO.

## Thoughts

**Could God have created** the universe? If God could create the universe could the God who could create the universe create the universe in six morning and evening days? Could the God that created the universe exert controlled force all over every part of creation all at the same time to make it all happen in one monstrous move on top of another day by day?

If God could not create the universe in six morning and evening days why would He say He did?

If He could, why would any person that claimed to believe the Bible say that God did not create the universe in six morning and evening days?

**Genesis 2:1** "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*"

**Exodus 20:11** "*For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.*"

**God is a worker of miracles** and creation is one of God's miracles and creation of the heaven and the earth in six evening and morning days is not a greater miracle than creating the heaven and the earth, period.

If six morning and evening days were not a reasonable length of time for the miracle working God of the universe to create the heaven and the earth, then what length of time would be a reasonable length of time for God to create the heaven and the earth?

Could it be that people do not perceive that in order to be the Creator of the heaven and the earth God has to have the power to control the heaven and the earth from every side and all over, all at once, inside and out?

**Genesis 1:3** "*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*"

When God created light there was light from one end of creation to the other end of creation all at once by the power of God acting on every part of creation all at the same time. When God spoke there was no part of creation that was not instantly and completely influenced by the creative power of God.

**Genesis 1:6** "*And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.*"

When God made that happen God had to be in control of everything that it takes to make it happen. When God spoke there was no element of the universe that could for an instant resist the power of God's will. For that reason time was not an element; compliance was instant and universal.

**Genesis 1:9** "*And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together to one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so.*"

When God spoke everything necessary from one end of creation to the other immediately moved to make it so. For God to create the universe at all God had to be in total control of everything and that means that when God spoke everything everywhere immediately moved to make it so. **God said it took Him six days to create the heaven and the earth and I absolutely believe that with all of my heart because we are talking about God here!**

## Notes

**THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING TODAY AT 3:00PM FOLLOWED BY A MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

**THE MONTHLY SINGING WILL BE FRIDAY AT 7:30PM**

**THE REGULAR MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE NEXT SUNDAY AT 3:00PM**

**Psalms 139:1** "*O LORD, you have searched me, and known [me]. 2 You know my downsitting and my uprising, you understand my thought afar off. 3 You compass my path and my lying down, and are acquainted [with] all my ways. 4 For [there is] not a word in my tongue, [but], lo, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5 You have beset me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me. 6 [Such] knowledge [is] too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot [attain] to it. 7 Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, you [are] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, you [are there]. 9 [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 even there shall your hand lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.*"

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