

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

October 12, 2008

Sennacherib's Fatal Mistake

During the days of Hezekiah king in Jerusalem, Sennacherib, king of Assyria sent a great army against Jerusalem demanding immediate surrender and suggesting that for several reasons any thought of resistance was ridiculous. One of the reasons given was that Hezekiah had destroyed all of the places of worship except the altar in Jerusalem. The Assyrian assumption was that obviously God was not going to come to the assistance of anybody who was as anti-religion as Hezekiah was.

2Kings 18:22 *"But if you say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: [is] not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and has said to Judah and Jerusalem, You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?"*

The Assyrians were grouping all religion together as if every expression of religion is equally acceptable to God. To do that is to make a fatal mistake. The Eternal God who created the heaven and the earth has always insisted on not only being worshipped but also on being worshipped only as he has dictated that he desired to be worshipped. The only true and living God has made it clear that every other expression of religion other than that which God has specifically called for **is false and is not acceptable to God**. There is only one true and living God and that one and only true and living God will accept no form of religion other than what he has dictated. Worshipping the true and living God according to his revealed will is the only true religion. When Hezekiah destroyed all of the places of worship except the altar in Jerusalem Hezekiah was doing the will of the only true and living God for that time and place.

Although worship is universal among all of humankind, most people fail to grasp that there is only one true object of worship, and that as a result of there being only one true object of worship, there is also only one true form for worship. That one true form for worship is the worship that is dictated by the one true object of worship, the only true and living God. All that either **do not worship the one true and living God**, or that as Cain, do not worship the one true God as the one true God has revealed that he desires to be worshipped, worship in vain. According to the Holy Bible most worship most of the time is in vain.

Matthew 15:7 *"[You] hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draws near to me with their mouth, and honors me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."*

When all worship is treated alike **the uniqueness of the only true and living God is obscured**. The divinely inspired message of the Holy Bible is dismissed without the consideration that it is due. The clearly inspired message of the Holy Bible is treated as if it were the product of superstition, ignorance, deception and delusion as are other forms of religion. The fact that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament tell one story from beginning to end, which demonstrates the presence of a single mind operating in the creation of the Holy Bible, is ignored. The fulfilled prophesies including the prophetic symbols with which the Holy Bible is filled force honest minds to place the Holy Bible all by itself as most certainly the unique product of the mind of the only true and living God. **To class this inspired book with any other religious writings is a fatal mistake like Sennacherib's.**

The information preserved in the Old Testament fully confirms the New Testament, and the New Testament alone, as the will of the only true and living God for every human.

To class the religion that is taught in the New Testament with any religion that is not taught in the New Testament is a serious mistake. To judge the worth of the religion that is taught in the New Testament by the flaws of religions that **are not obeying** the teachings of the New Testament is blindness. A person who **is not doing** what the New Testament teaches people to do **is not a Christian**. The person may be a very nice person, but he or she, is not a Christian unless he or she is **obeying the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the writings of the apostles contained in the New Testament**. The power of God and of God's kingdom cannot be understood by looking at things that **are not God's kingdom**. According to the Holy Bible those religions that do not obey the New Testament are not God's kingdom. (**Acts 28:23-31**) **Departure of some from the inspired teachings** of the apostles began during the lifetimes of the apostles and was noted in the writings of the apostles.

1John 2: 19 *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*

Those that went out did not **quit doing religion**. They kept on doing religion; they just stopped doing religion **according to the teachings of the New Testament**.

1Timothy 4:1 *"Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"*

When people stop obeying God's inspired word they do not stop doing religion, they just stop doing religion that pleases God.

In obedience to the commandment of Jesus Christians go preaching the message of the New Testament. That message will win every honest debate because it is the message from God. No lie can stand against that message. God has seen to that. The message of the New Testament is the truth and no lie can stand against the truth in honest debate. That is important to note because **truth is important**.

The problem with failing to differentiate between the true and living God and his word and other forms of worship is that the true and living God is truly God and is truly living. In one night one hundred and eighty-five thousand people in the army of Sennacherib died. Sennacherib went home and stayed there. **His own sons murdered Sennacherib while he was worshipping in the temple of his false god.** (**2Kings 19:35-37**) **Those who in their minds try to group faithful obedience to the New Testament with the superstitions of this world need to study the Holy Bible until they are able to realize the difference between true and false religion. All need to read about and know what God has done to save sinners.**

Remember To Pray For

Sarah Phillips, cancer
David Alford, heart problem
Carol Bach
Marian Lyda
Edith Tirey
Waldine Childress
Jeanette Lindsey
Lucy Hale
Ruben Amador's daughter
Pamela Clayton
Newborn baby of Nate & Tricha Shannon
Ella Wells, and her family
Debra Craig
Dallis and Alma Isaacs
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
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey

*If the Devil can stop God's Word
He can stop God's work*

The Devil knows that

*If I am a Christian and I will not
support the truth of God's word
Who on earth will?*

*The word of God is only alive in me
when it is changing my thinking, my
behavior or both.*

*When God commands us to love our
enemies God is only telling us to do to
others what God has already done to
us.*

*Romans 5: 8 "But God commended
his love toward us, in that, while we
were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

*God wills that each of us should have
everything that is truly good for us
and everything that is truly good for
us is from God.*

*James 1: 17 "Every good gift and
every perfect gift is from above, and
comes down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither
shadow of turning."*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Thoughts

"What do you mean, 'Be YOU reconciled to God'?"

I thought Jesus did it all."

2Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be you reconciled to God. 21 For he has made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 6:1 We then, [as] workers together [with him], beseech [you] also that you receive not the grace of God in vain."

When two formerly estranged parties are reconciled there is frequently a price to be paid, terms to be met and behavior to be altered. Jesus paid the price, which leaves us with terms to meet and behavior to alter. If I refuse to meet God's terms for reconciliation, as far as my salvation is concerned Jesus paid the price in vain, because if I do not alter my behavior and comply with God's terms I am going to remain in sin.

The "word of reconciliation" that was committed to Paul and the other apostles of Jesus Christ is the doctrine that is preserved in the New Testament. The "word of reconciliation" is the inspired message that was both preached and written by the apostles guided by the Holy Spirit and preserved in the New Testament. That is the word that instructs us, in how and why to become repentant, baptized, believing, followers of the teachings of Jesus, and of his inspired apostles.

When in **Acts 2:40** the apostle Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit told the murderers of Jesus to "save themselves from this untoward generation" Peter was telling them to obey the words that the Holy Spirit was guiding Peter to speak in answer to their question "What shall we do?" There was something that, if they were going to be saved from the sin of murdering the only begotten Son of God, they were going to have to do and the Holy Spirit guided Peter to tell them exactly what it was. Those that did what Peter told them to do saved themselves from that crooked generation.

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [even] as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [to them] about three thousand souls."

This message exactly agreed with what Jesus had earlier told his apostles.

Mark 16: 15 "And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned."

Matthew 28: 18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the world. Amen."

Notes

Men's Business Meeting
Today at 3:00PM

Gospel Meeting

November 2-7

FRANK WALTON

Preaching

Topic

Faith in Action

The Practical Epistle of James

We are God's children by the inspired word of God.

James 1: 18 "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth."

Obedying God's word purifies our souls.

1Peter 1: 22 "Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit to unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that you] love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

We are born again by the word of God.

1Peter 1: 23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever."

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

445 Columbia Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40508

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**

HELP GOD'S WORD GROW

LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT