

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

December 28, 2008

The New Testament: A Springboard for My Imagination or the Thoughtfully Stated Will of God?

My attitude toward the New Testament is going to determine much of what is going to happen in my life in the year 2009. My attitude toward the New Testament is going to determine what the New Testament does for me in the year 2009. My attitude toward the New Testament is going to determine what I do with the New Testament in the year 2009.

If I view (as most of the religious people in this world do) the New Testament as a sketchy directional indicator for human religious originality and inventiveness I will treat what it actually says with very little respect. For religious humans that is by far the most popular attitude toward the New Testament. In the largest religions on earth today what the New Testament says does not determine what is believed or practiced. Popular religion preaches, practices and propagates things that are either not found in the New Testament or are actually condemned by the New Testament in words that are crystal clear and leave nothing for honest minds to debate. Popular religion is in the unenviable position of contradictory chaos that it is currently in, because it does not respect the New Testament as a clear statement of God's will for humankind. If I view the New Testament with the same disrespect for it, and the God who gave it, that they do, I will find myself in the same troubled sea of contradictory chaos that they are in. If I think what they think, I will also do what they do, and the religion I practice will soon become as confused and unscriptural as theirs are.

All of the human add-ons to the religion that is described in the New Testament are insults to the wisdom of God, if the religion described in the New Testament is really the religion of God's choice. Every human religious and doctrinal invention is a statement that God in the first century AD did not know what He was doing. Those inventions say that God's original inspired message is in need of constant revision by the successive generations of human religious inventors and innovators that have come along since the death of the faithful apostles. The human inventions have supplanted the words of those that were unique inspired eyewitnesses and handpicked servants of Jesus Christ.

Invariably the innovations and inventions are more appealing than those things that the New Testament actually teaches. All of the religious garbs, pomp, ceremony, rituals, titles, offices and drama that are so appealing and impressive in modern religions are absolutely not taught in the New Testament. You can read the New Testament until you wear the print right off of the pages of the New Testament and you will never find any of those things.

So, where did those things come from? They came from the minds of people who did not respect the New Testament or the God who is responsible for the New Testament. Hundreds of years after the apostles were all dead a member of a popular but apostate religious body decided that the members of that apostate religious body should add to their former apostasies by beginning to commemorate the birth of Jesus. There is not a word in the New Testament about anybody ever memorializing the birth of Jesus in any way. Jesus taught His disciples to commemorate His death and resurrection from the dead by eating a simple ceremonial meal of unleavened bread and grape juice but Jesus never taught them to memorialize His birth. Why do people do what Jesus did not teach them to do? Why do people do what the faithful apostles of Jesus did not teach them to do? Why do people do what the New Testament does not teach them to do? The simple answer is that people do not have proper respect for God or for God's inspired word. People do not believe that God knew enough to produce and preserve a record of exactly what God wants religion to be. Judging from their behavior people believe that regardless of what the New Testament says whatever new invention they are pleased with God must also be pleased with. Again judging by their behavior humans feel that God has given humans authority to second guess God and to amend, abridge or ignore the New Testament at will and still hope to receive the benefits that God promised to those who faithfully obey God's revealed will. Jesus said, *"If you love me, keep my commandments."* **John 14:15**

If in the coming year I feel that way toward the New Testament and toward God and His promises my New Year is not going to be spiritually prosperous. If I feel disrespect for the inspired New Testament and toward God who produced and preserved it I need to repent. My resolution needs to be that I will stop the sin of disrespect for God and for God's word and not do it anymore.

If you are a part of a religious body that has more religious beliefs and practices that are not taught in the New Testament than it has that are taught in the New Testament you need to get that religious body to follow the New Testament only. If that religious body with which you are now associated will not follow the New Testament only you need to disassociate yourself with it and become a member of a religious body that will follow the New Testament only. If you cannot find such a religious body where you are you should use the New Testament as a guide and start one. Learn and obey the New Testament yourself and teach others to until there is a body of repentant, baptized believers who follow the New Testament only and refrain from inventing religions of their own. There is absolutely no spiritual benefit in leaving one apostate religion in order to associate oneself with another apostate religion. The only way to receive spiritual benefit is to leave all apostate religion and all unscriptural religious practices and follow the New Testament only.

As a local body of repentant, baptized believers the responsibility of every member of that body is to make absolutely certain that the body of which you are a part is a pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 3: 15 *"But if I tarry long, that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

A local church must be a means by which the truth of God's inspired word is made known and its practice demonstrated to the world. To His disciples Jesus said, *"Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 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."* **Matthew 28: 19-20**

The responsibility of humankind before God is not to simply do some kind of religion that suits us. Our responsibility before God is to obey and make known God's inspired word, which we have in the writings of the apostles preserved in the New Testament. Both 2010 (only a year away) and 2009 can be better if we make 2009 better by better knowing and better obeying the New Testament in 2009. Let's try to do it.

Remember To Pray For

Dallis and Alma Isaacs
Francis Nations
Mary Jane Frost
Melanie Biley
Rick Shamas
Bonnie Wells
Sarah Phillips
David Alford
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

Matthew 15: 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

If we do not know and obey God's revealed will, we cannot be either the light of the world or a city set on a hill.

A light shows brightest by contrast. The truth of God's word shows brightest when it is seen in contrast to error. That is why it is so important for us to stand for the truth, teaching it and doing it especially in the face of opposition and adversity from error.

Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Thoughts

A trail of prophecy identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the object of God's promise to Abraham that in Abraham's seed all nations of the earth will be blessed.

Genesis 3: 15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 17: 19 "And God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed; and you shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, [and] with his seed after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear to you at this set time in the next year."

Genesis 21: 12 "And God said to Abraham, Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the lad, and because of your bondwoman; in all that Sarah has said to you, hearken to her voice; for in Isaac shall your seed be called."

Genesis 22: 18 "And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice."

Genesis 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him [shall] the gathering of the people [be]."

Psalms 89: 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn to David my servant, 4 Your seed will I establish for ever, and build up your throne to all generations."

Isaiah 53: 5 "But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 65: 9 "And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and my elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there."

Jeremiah 22: 30 "Thus says the LORD, Write you this man childless, a man [that] shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

Micah 5: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, [though] you be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of you shall he come forth to me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting."

Isaiah 7: 14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Psalms 110:1 "The LORD said to my Lord, Sit you at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

Psalms 110: 4 "The LORD has sworn, and will not repent, You [are] a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

Daniel 2: 44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

No one but Jesus of Nazareth fits the description given in the prophecies of the true and living God.

Notes

The monthly singing will be
Friday at 7:30PM
The men's business meeting will be
January 11 at 3:00PM

Sheets

There is a sheet on the bulletin board in the front hall on which to list requests for song selections for the first Friday night singings.

There is another sheet on the bulletin board by the office on which to list maintenance items that need to be addressed.

Whether far or near, in darkness or in light God is always there and always able.

Psalms 139: 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. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yes, the darkness hides not from you; but the night shines as the day: the darkness and the light [are] both alike [to you]. 13 For you have possessed my reins: you have covered me in my mother's womb."

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