

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

February 17, 2008

Who is the Boss?

Jesus commanded His apostles to teach the disciples to observe everything that Jesus had commanded the apostles.

Matthew 28: 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."

Jesus assured the apostles that through miraculous inspiration they would be in possession of all truth.

John 14: 26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you."

John 16: 13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:"

Paul said that the things he wrote would allow Christians to know how God wished for them to behave.

1 Timothy 3: 14 "These things write I to you, hoping to come to you shortly: 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."

Paul affirmed that in the inspired teachings of the inspired apostles of the first century AD we have the mind of Christ revealed.

1 Corinthians 2: 12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

The New Testament is the complete preserved record of the work of those men in the first century AD as they went about making disciples of all nations and teaching them to observe all of the things that Jesus had commanded them. Through the New Testament each succeeding generation of the faithful has been able to know and obey all of the things that Jesus commanded, because that is what the inspired writers of the first century AD recorded and preserved in the New Testament. The New Testament contains "all truth", recorded on those pages by the men to whom it was delivered, both by the teachings of Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. When we are obeying the teachings of the New Testament we may be assured that we are pleasing God. If we want to know what God wishes for us to do we simply need to read the New Testament. The New Testament contains "all truth", the complete will of God for the church on earth that the Lord commanded that the apostles teach to all nations. The multitudes of things practiced by religions that are not found in the New Testament are not part of "all truth". It is interesting to note that most of the most common and most popular practices of modern religion are not found in the New Testament. Some of those practices have been around for a long time but they are not taught in the New Testament.

In the New Testament there is no mention of an organizational structure of the church on earth that extends beyond a single local church. The overseers were overseers of a local church of which they themselves were members. (1 Peter 5:1-4) The inspired apostles had no successors and needed none because their teaching lives on in the pages of the New Testament for each of us to follow.

In the New Testament there was no instrumental music in the worship of the church. (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16)

In the New Testament there was no use of images representing the cross or the crucifixion or the apostles or Jesus or Mary His mother or fish or angels or God the Father, or anything else. Remember these apostles were guided into ALL TRUTH and yet the apostles taught nothing about having images or pictures. The apostles being Jews would never have produced or used images and none are mentioned in the New Testament. Those are digressions that took place hundreds of years after the apostles were dead.

In the New Testament there is no celebration of the birth of Jesus, yet today that is one of the most prominent practices in the religious world. In the New Testament there is a weekly celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus. That is done in obedience to the commandment of Jesus. Unleavened bread is eaten in memory of the sinless body of Jesus and grape juice is drunk to remember the blood that was shed in His redeeming death for our sins. That is all, no chimes, no parades through the meetinghouse, no changes in the lighting, nothing, but what Jesus commanded, and only because He commanded. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the New Testament there is no mention of praying to saints, to angels, or to dead people, including Mary the mother of Jesus. The New Testament teaches to pray to the Father through the Son. (Matthew 6: 6, 9, John 15:16, 16:23,24, Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 3:17)

Where did all of these most prominent features of today's religion come from if not from the inspired pages of the New Testament? They all came from bosses that are not God but that are given more respect by their followers than God's inspired word is given by those followers. These unscriptural practices came from the able imaginations of humankind and have polluted the purity of worship and created false religions that claim to serve God but that have become tools in the hands of the evil to kill and persecute in rebellion against the teachings of the New Testament. They are used to further the aspirations of power-grasping sinners and do Satan's work across the face of the earth. The church as God designed it cannot become a power tool in the hand of evil people. Only churches that allow themselves to be redesigned by evil people can become tools in the hand of men like Constantine to win carnal wars. A local church is of very little interest to the power hungry. It is only after local churches allow themselves to be drawn into a union of a number of local churches acting together that they become useful as political tools of violent persons.

Remember to Pray For

Roselyn Agyare
Ron Tirey
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Divya Srinivasan
Bill Robinson Jr.
Pat Wallace
Anne Harper and the baby
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer

*The only creed book of the faithful is the
New Testament
If God expects the faithful to do it God put
it in the New Testament.*

Why did members of the church at Antioch in Syria go to Jerusalem and meet with the church there in Jerusalem (**Acts 15**)?

They did not go to Jerusalem to find out what to believe. Paul was an inspired apostle and knew what to believe.

They went to Jerusalem to find out why false teachers came to Antioch from the church at Jerusalem.

They also went to the church at Jerusalem to deal with the false teaching that had been done at Antioch by some that came from the church at Jerusalem.

The only people involved at Jerusalem were people from the church at Antioch where the false teaching had been attempted and people of the church at Jerusalem where the false teachers at Antioch had come from.

The reason this point is important is that the religious world points to Acts 15 as authority for "ecumenical" councils.

But Acts 15 is not an ecumenical council.

Of all the churches that existed on earth at that time the only people that came together were people from the church where false teachers attempted to teach doctrinal error and the church from which those false teachers came when they came teaching error.

In the New Testament there are no ecumenical councils and among churches that faithfully follow the New Testament there are no ecumenical councils today.

**OBEY THE NEW TESTAMENT AND
YOU WILL CERTAINLY PLEASE
GOD**

Thoughts

Who is in charge?

In every organization there is a specific chain of responsibility from the largest responsibility to the smallest. The whole organization is divided into areas of responsibility. The responsibility may be divided by territories, by countries, by states, by regions, by location, by departments, by group or whatever suits the purposes of the one that designs the organizational structure.

Compare the organizational structure of the church described in the New Testament with the organizational structures of most of the churches active today. The church described in the New Testament has no overseers other than the overseers that oversee a local church. In the New Testament there are no overseers of areas, of provinces, of countries or of anything else other than a single local church.

In most churches today there are overseers of groups of churches, areas, nations, sections of the globe and on and on layer after layer up to the top person on earth that is over all of the churches of that particular kind on earth. None of that pyramid of power is in the New Testament. In the New Testament the only overseeing body is the group of overseers that oversee a single local church. The only overseer outside of the local church is Jesus Christ.

It has not been difficult for people to wrongly feel that they have a right to set aside the **New Testament** and do whatever they want to in religion. One of the first things they have done is build a pyramid of power with themselves and their cronies at the top. It happened first in one only church. Diotrephes in **3John 9,10** is an example of that. Then two churches and then a group of churches, then all of the churches in an area then a larger area and eventually all the churches on earth that will stand for it. That is the often-repeated ongoing picture of digressive religion on earth.

The religious people that were involved in the council at Nicea, and in all of the subsequent ecumenical councils were all religiously digressive people who had long before left the pattern of the New Testament. They started their departure by making one overseer in a local church the boss overseer and calling him the bishop. The other elders continued to be called elders but the bishop was their boss and they were his staff. Eventually one boss elder ("bishop") became the boss elder of all the boss elders in an area. The Eastern Orthodox Church has several top boss overseers at any given time and calls them patriarchs. When the Roman group broke away from the rest after 1054 AD they made one boss overseer the boss of all of their bosses and so it is today.

There is not a single word of support in the **New Testament** for any of those bosses of bosses and the **New Testament** is where all of the authority in religion comes from. If a religion does not follow the pattern of the New Testament it cannot please God because it is not part of the "all truth" preserved in the New Testament. **John 16: 13** "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:*" Religious systems that do not follow the pattern of the New Testament are not part of the "all truth" that is preserved in the New Testament.

Notes

**Men's Business Meeting Today February
17, 2008 at 3:00 PM
Informational meeting March 9, 2008,
4:00PM**

REMEMBER TO PLAN FOR THE GOSPEL MEETING WITH GARY HENRY PREACHING APRIL 6-11

Genesis says that **God created** the heavens and the earth in six evening and morning days.

How long would it have taken the heavens and the earth to come into existence if God had not created them?

If six days are not enough time for God to create the heavens and the earth how much time would be enough time for God to create the heavens and the earth?

If God could not create the heavens and the earth in six morning and evening days could He create the heavens and the earth in a hundred billion years?

What would the addition of billions of years do to enhance God's power to create the heavens and the earth?

Exactly how would extra time make God more able to create the heavens and the earth?

If somebody makes baking-powder biscuits it usually takes about thirty minutes more or less including mixing and baking.

How would extra time make a person more able to make biscuits than the thirty minutes that it will take for a person to make biscuits?

How long would it take for a pan of biscuits to come into existence if somebody did not make them?

None can deny that the heavens and the earth exist. They came into existence by the use of power and knowledge beyond human imagination. When the Creator says six days were what it took on what logical grounds may any human object?

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

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