

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

June 22, 2008

How to Grow Faithful Churches

Walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9: 3 “Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, were multiplied.”

In the first century AD the Christians walked in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit by obeying the teachings (both spoken and written) of the inspired apostles of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2: 42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Today Christians walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit by continuing steadfastly in the teachings of the New Testament as the Christians in the first century AD continued steadfastly in the doctrine taught by the apostles both by speaking and writing. The New Testament is the only reliable source available to us today, of the teachings of the inspired apostles of the first century AD. If we today are going to follow the teachings of Jesus and His apostles of the first century AD our only option is to follow the New Testament only.

Show the glory that God has in the church by Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3: 20 “Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 To him [be] **glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.** Amen.”

God's promise of salvation made again and again throughout the ages is recorded in the Old Testament and its fulfillment is recorded in the New Testament with the establishment of the church of Christ in Jerusalem. (**Acts 2**) A church that is faithfully following the New Testament shows the glory of God in everything that it does and teaches that is in accordance with the teaching of the New Testament because it demonstrates God's power to foretell His works thousands of years in advance. None can do that but God, and the fact that God has done that in the Holy Bible is undeniable proof that the Holy Bible is the inspired word of God. There is no successful argument against the proof furnished by the thousands of years of fulfilled prophecies that are preserved in the Holy Bible.

Jesus is the head of the church, and its Savior. It is the church that Jesus saves.

Ephesians 5: 23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.**”

Jesus died to save the church. It is the church that Jesus bought with His blood.

Acts 20: 28 “Take heed therefore to yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed **the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood.**”

A church as a group and each Christian as an individual must follow the New Testament because that is the only way we may be in subjection to Jesus Christ. The church of Christ is the same church today that it was when the sun set on the day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2**) The church of Christ today still follows the same teachings of the same apostles of Jesus Christ that it followed on the very first day. God saw fit to preserve those teachings in the New Testament and every church that is truly a church of Christ follows those teachings in the New Testament and those teachings only. A church cannot be a church of Christ unless it is subject to Jesus and the only way today for a church to be subject to Jesus Christ is to follow the teachings of the New Testament only. The New Testament is the only reliable source on earth of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5: 24 “Therefore **as the church is subject to Christ,** so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.”

The only way a church today is able to be subject to Christ is by obeying the New Testament only. The creeds, doctrines and religious practices of human origin that make up most of what most religious organizations on earth spend most of their time, money and energy doing are not demonstrations of subjection to Jesus Christ. Those things of human origin are not included in the teachings of the New Testament. If they were the will of Jesus Christ they would be found taught in the New Testament. Subjection to Jesus Christ may only be demonstrated by obeying the New Testament only.

By following the teachings of the New Testament only a church of Christ today is able to be exactly like a church of Christ in the first century AD under the direct guidance of the inspired apostles. A faithful church today is exactly the same as a faithful church in the first century because the New Testament today contains the teachings of the apostles of the first century AD. That was God's plan, that the church of Christ throughout the ages would follow the teachings of the inspired first century apostles of Jesus Christ and forever be the pure demonstration of the glory of God that it was in the first century AD. When you visit a faithful church of Christ today you will see a church that is guided only by the teachings of the first century apostles of Jesus Christ. The things that you will see being done are being done because the New Testament teaches them.

Following the New Testament a faithful church of Christ assembles to worship and study together. On the first day of the week a faithful church of Christ will assemble to eat the Lord's supper and give money into the church treasury. On those occasions there will be songs, prayers, Bible reading and teaching from the Bible. Salvation of sinners by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus will be a major topic of study and thanksgiving. A faithful church of Christ is made up of repentant, baptized believers, who teach, baptize, and teach in obedience to the command of Jesus. (**Matthew 28: 18-20**) The inspired word of God is preserved for us so that each of us may spend our days learning, repenting, obeying, learning, repenting, obeying, learning, repenting, and obeying so that we may become day by day more of what God desires for us to be and nothing else. **The church of Christ will be faithful when each of us are faithful.**

Remember to Pray For

Tony Tyree a former member who is in the hospital in Johnson City, TN with a broken leg suffered in a fall. Tony has a number of medical problems in addition to the broken leg.

Ruth Brundige Richard's mother

Cindy Miller, Rob's mother

Jonathan Nations

Marlene Wood

Matt York

Glen Seabolt

Christie Ellis

Janie Smith

Shirley Lewis

Brady Gibbons

Gail Hunter

Larry Flannery

Donnie Joseph

Alexa Anne Harper

Cheryl Spear

Lanny Hiller

Roselyn Agyare

Charity and Abdiel Pallafox in Mexico

Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby

Helen Stephens

Brayden Grushon

Chris Handshoe

Chris and Jen Dooley

Jeffrey Howerton

Ruel Baker

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Sybil Jamison

Karen Handshoe continues to be very ill.

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

James Stauffer

John Scholtz in Africa

If I wish the church to be faithful to
God I must be faithful to God.

If I wish the church to be pure I must
be pure.

If I wish the church to love I must
love.

If I wish the church to be directed by
God's word I must be directed by
God's word.

If I wish the church to mind spiritual
things I must mind spiritual things.

I cannot expect the church to be what I
am not.

A church cannot be what its members
are not.

Ephesus lost its first love because **its
members** lost their first love.

Revelation 2:4

Philadelphia kept God's word
because **the members** of that church
kept God's word.

Revelation 3:8,10

Paul said, "I can do all things through
Christ which strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

SO CAN WE

Thoughts

Normal human ears are made up of a multitude of individual parts beginning with the things that stick out on each side of your head that collect and direct sound waves into the two holes that they are formed around. When the sound waves pass into the two holes on each side of a human head they are processed by all of the parts that are imbedded in the holes. Each part is special in material, size, shape, function, weight, texture and multitudes of other specifications to do what it does to contribute to turning air turbulence into audible sound.

Because ears come in pairs a person with normal ability to hear is able to tell exactly where a particular sound is coming from even when there are many sounds from many sources entering the ears at the same time. In a room full of people all talking at the same time a normal human ear is able to differentiate between the individual voices and determine which direction each sound is coming from and how far away the source of the sound is. Normal human hearing can do that even though there are many sources of sounds of many volumes and pitches all at the same time.

Normal ears do all of the things they do because all of the many parts of the hearing system are as they are and do what they do when and as they do it. Stick all of that in a theory of how it all happened and see what you get. You have a system working on sound waves of different lengths. These waves are part of a vast and complicated system of matter that works consistently but works in many different ways depending on the matter and the conditions at the time. Let us attempt to figure out how the tympanic membrane (eardrum) came to be just the proper size, thickness, material, hardness, texture and all of the other things that a human eardrum is. And then figure out how it got itself located in exactly the proper spot in the hole in our head so that it could interact with tiny bones that in turn act upon a bunch of unique little cells. Let us figure out how these little bones got themselves into the proper size and shape and in the proper place to pass information from the eardrum to the unique little cells. Then let us figure out how the unique little cells figured out just how they needed to be and where in order to pass all of that information into the part of the nervous system that is able to make use of that multitude of information. Then let us figure out how that part of the nervous system figured out exactly what it needed to be in order process all of that information so that even in the den of table talk from several people talking at the same time I can hear you say, "Pass the beans, please", and respond properly. All of the macroevolution charts ignore these problems. They show imaginary changes in the size and carriage of various ape-like creatures but pay no attention to how parts of ears are supposed to have either started in the first place or changed from what they started as to become what they now are. According to the macroevolutionists there is absolutely no process of reason by which an ear could ever exist or by which hearing could become possible.

What does a macroevolutionist imagine is the driving and guiding force behind all of the development of all of these multi-part super sophisticated, highly fine-tuned and unique systems? No macroevolutionist that I know of has ever presented a logical and convincing reason for the existence of any orderly progression of anything whatsoever.

The Bible explains it all.

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Psalms 139: 14 "I will praise you; for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made: marvelous [are] your works; and [that] my soul knows right well."

Notes

Men's business meeting today at 3:00PM

Informational meeting today at 4:30PM

GOD IS AS BIG IN THE LITTLE AS HE IS IN THE BIG

Hebrews 11: 3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

WITHOUT GOD'S GLORIOUS PLAN OF SALVATION THE UNIVERSE HAS NO REASON TO BE AS IT IS

Why are we here and as we are?
The only thing that gives reason to the way things are is the revealed word of God preserved in the Holy Bible

WHAT BETTER COMPANY MAY WE KEEP THAN THE HEROES OF THE BIBLE?

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH UNLESS WE REPENT BEFORE PAYDAY

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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Church of Christ

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