



Bible Basics

Bill Dillon

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by
Bill Dillon

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Publisher's Statement

Bill Dillon is a gospel preacher. He is a pulpit preacher. He is a radio preacher. He is a writer and a publisher of a monthly magazine, *Gospel Gleaner*. He has made numerous mission trips to Ghana. He is the author of **Gospel Gems, Volumes 1 and 2**. He is also my friend.

Having preached in a number of states, Bill is presently the pulpit minister of the College and North Streets Church of Christ in Mountain Home, AR. As such he is also the regular speaker on the "Words of Life" Gospel program, aired over KPFM in Mountain Home.

The sermons in this book, **Bible Basics**, were originally presented on the "Words of Life" broadcast.

Bill believes the Bible and preaches it. He makes no apology for its message. **Bible Basics** is plain and simple and will benefit all who will read it and apply it to their lives.

J.C. Choate
Winona, MS
March 1, 2001

Dedication

Thomas Joseph Dillon

May 23, 1971 -

January 30, 1988



Jeffrey Scott Dillon

February 22, 1975 -

November 8, 1991

This book is dedicated to my two sons. They were brothers in life and are now companions in eternity. It is my fervent prayer that the messages in this book will help others also to inhabit heavenly bliss.

Foreword

I am happy to recommend the work of Bill Dillon. Whatever comes from Bill's pen is Scripturally sound, practical, and interesting. He preaches for one of the largest churches of Christ in the U.S. but still finds time to do mission work, speak on the radio, direct lectureships, hold meetings and special preaching events, and publish good material. Bill has not had the easiest life, but he has born up under difficult circumstances, and maintained a redeeming sense of humor. He is a gracious man, free from pretense, and genuinely interested in the welfare of others. In this volume, you will find material dealing with topics that need addressing this year — and will continue to be at the heart of religious discussions. The book does not skirt around the difficult questions — and neither does it unnecessarily castigate and offend those who are still studying and searching for the Truth. Any sincere and thinking person will do well to consider what Bill Dillon has written.

Allen Webster
Editor, House to House/Heart to Heart
Jackson, Alabama

Introduction

I feel sincere and deep gratitude for being able to print another volume of radio messages.

Special thanks is again given to Dorothy Henderson for her time and energy in typing these manuscripts.

Believing “the ministry of the printed page can go where the sound of the voice cannot” these lessons are sent forth.

May God continue to bless all efforts to preach and teach the gospel of Christ.

Bill Dillon
July 1996
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

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The Bible: God's Supreme Book

Introduction

Good morning friends. Thank you for being tuned in to the “Words of Life” gospel program and for allowing us to make another radio visit with you.

Our lesson today is **from the Bible** and it is **about the Bible**. But before we proceed to that lesson it is my pleasure to extend to you and your loved ones an invitation to visit with the Mountain Home Church of Christ for worship services today. We meet this morning at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and this evening at 6:00 PM. Also, each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

The welcome mat is always out for all visitors. Visitors we appreciate as our most special friends.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand

A friend by your side

A smile on your face

A song in your heart.

Have you read any good books lately? Have you read **The Good Book** lately? A popular health slogan says, “You are what you eat.” A man just can't expect to grow in

knowledge (without feeding his mind) anymore than he can expect to grow physically without feeding his body. Unfortunately, there's an ample supply of "junk-food literature" available in our world. **Junk-reading leads to junk-thinking; and junk-thinking leads to junk-living.**

The book I have in mind right now though is far from junk; it's a **treasure book**. It has been recognized for years as the surpassing book of all time. If people would take the time to learn more of the Bible, they would love it more and without doubt it would have a tremendous effect on their lives for the better. Those who have acquainted themselves with it have happily discovered that it is a storehouse of riches, excelling in wisdom and imparting strength.

Down through the years the greatest of thinkers, speakers and writers have utilized and adapted the stories, terms and phrases of the Bible to their own works. The names of Shakespeare, Milton, Coleridge, Bunyan, Wordsworth, Pope, Dryden and a host of others fall into this category. This is not to say that the lives of these writers conformed to the teachings of the Bible; but it is to say that their lasting works, as significant contributions to the world's great masterpieces of literature, were saturated in Bible terminology, images and thoughts.

Abraham Lincoln is a good example of one who let the Bible influence his speechmaking. Most have heard, at one time or another, of the Gettysburg Address. Such words and phrases as "our fathers", "created", "dedicated", "con-

ceived”, “Hallow”, “consecrate”, “died in vain”, and such like are recognized as words with a definite Bible flavor to them. Mr. Lincoln is also attributed as saying, “I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all this book upon reason that you can, and the balance upon faith, and you will live and die a better man.” Of course, in years gone by, such remarks were addressed to a nation of people whose religious devotion was deeper than the current age.

Another example worthy of notice is Daniel Webster who adorned his speeches with Bible allusions and quotations. Webster said of Alexander Hamilton, “He smote the rock of natural resources, and abundant streams of revenue burst forth; he touched the dead corpse of public credit and it sprang upon its feet.” Webster said this in reference to Hamilton’s providing funds for the U.S. treasury while it was still in its infancy. Webster’s words helped Hamilton become a noted historical figure, but, as well, revealed Webster’s own knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. More than one famous figure from the past has demonstrated the rich storehouse of thought found in the Bible.

How many children through the years received their early impressions for good from Bible lessons and stories that dealt with the noble themes of courage, truthfulness, honesty and many other wonderful virtues?

The book of Ruth is among the most charming love stories of all time; the book of Esther will always remind us of how important a woman was in saving God’s people in the

days of ancient Persia; Joseph's story, as related in Genesis, tells how a young man can go far in life, even though several bad breaks befell him in his young manhood; David's encounter with the giant of Gath has instilled bravery into many young persons who were up against some modern day Goliath; the story of Job has likewise encouraged numbers of souls in trying times of extreme distress and trouble to not quit trying. How many more lessons can you think of? Do your children know of these ageless truths?

The Bible is the book for all seasons. It is not a **man-made book**; it is **the book that has made men!** It is the Good Book. **Read it!** To read it is **to know it; to know it is to love it; to love it is to live it!** Isaiah 34:16 says, "*seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read.*" You will never receive better or more timely advice than that.

The Bible towers above all other books as surely as Mt. Everest towers above all other mountains. The supremacy of God's great book is seen in **its information** and in the **estimation** that great men have had for it.

The Bible Is Supreme in its Formation

The Bible is a God-formed book. It is reasonable that if God created man and the world, that God would teach man how to live in that world.

John Wesley said the Bible must have been written by **good men or bad, or angels or devils.** Bad men or devils would not have written it because it condemns sin and pro-

nounces judgment upon sinners. Good men or angels wouldn't have written it because they would not deceive men by saying God was the author. Thus, the Bible must have been written as it claims to have been, by God, who used the Holy Spirit to inspire men to transcribe it (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible Is Supreme in its Information

The twentieth century was the "Information Age." Computerized technology has touched all levels of society, bringing unbelievable amounts of data to our eyes at the touch of a button. Sadly, the most valuable and needed information (the knowledge of spiritual things), is escaping the notice of modern man.

Only the Bible brings accurate information of spiritual matters. The Bible is a treasure chest of eternal truths that can free man's soul from sin and fill his heart with gladness. The Bible gives **help for the soul, holiness for the life, happiness for the heart and hope for the future.**

Man needs light; the Bible throws a bright beam of truth through the darkness of tribulation and heavy clouds of discouragement.

In his death-defying speech before the Continental Congress, Patrick Henry said: "There is but one lamp to guide my feet. It is the lamp of experience." Years later, as the shadows of death hovered over him, he pressed a Bible to his bosom and admitted, "Blessed Book! The greatest of

all books which I have had no time to read, and now it is too late.” If Mr. Henry had taken time to read that “Blessed Book,” he would have found another lamp by which to live his life by. In Psalm 119:105 we read, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway.*” How many other men have lived and died in ignorance of the blessed information the Bible brings?

Man’s earthly journey is a crooked and treacherous path extending from the cradle to the grave. He needs a light to shine along the way. Man shall never have a **brighter** nor **better** light to guide him than **the Bible light!**

The Bible Is Supreme in the Estimation Great Men Have Given to it.

The Holy Scriptures are second to none in the high confidence great men have had in them. Although some men have rejected and ridiculed the scriptures, yet a multitude of others have affirmed that not one shadow of doubt can be cast over God’s supreme book. Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary who mastered more than 30 ancient and modern languages, applied his genius to the study of the Bible’s origins, primarily the Old Testament. He set down his conclusions defending the total veracity of the Old Testament in the monumental work **A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament**, which destroyed and buried the critical liberal views of scholars who had attacked the Bible’s trustworthiness. Dr. Wilson’s conclusion was, after 45 years of study and writing, **that no**

man knows enough to question the accuracy and veracity of the Bible!

Over a century ago, William Ramsay believed the history given by Luke in his gospel and Acts of the Apostles was inaccurate. After thorough research, Ramsay found Luke's accounts were "first rank" history, accurate to the tiniest detail. Ramsay became one of the ripest Biblical scholars ever known. His books today are valued as classics in the history of the New Testament.

Many facts are known about Christopher Columbus and his courageous voyages to the new world, but the least known fact is the profound impact of the Bible on his life. Columbus was a devout believer in the Scriptures. The force that propelled him across the vast ocean is seen from his own words, from the **Book of Prophecies**, the only book he ever wrote, "the fact the gospel still must be preached to so many lands in such short time — this is what convinces me." Robert Flood in **Men Who Shaped America** wrote that, "Columbus saw the success of his voyage as a direct confirmation of God's will for his life. He saw discovery as opening up new lands and tribes to the gospel" (page 15).

Conclusion

May men everywhere have in their thinking and living a greater appreciation for the Bible. May we all see it as **God's supreme book** for all human kind.

We count everyone who listens in to this broadcast, a

friend. As one friend to another, from my heart to yours, I wish you and yours well and pray God's blessings to rest upon you. We *"commend you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among the sanctified."* (Acts 20:32). In the Word of Grace, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself gives the commandment to:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16).

And in concluding, we remind you:

"Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b).

May God bless you, and good day.

The Bible: The Word of God

Introduction

Since its inspired and immortal truths were penned amid the quiet hills of Palestine hundreds of years ago, the Bible has challenged the attention of the noblest souls of earth and of the greatest thinkers of all time.

The word of God is the best of books. **It is a book of law**, showing right from wrong; **it is a book of wisdom**, condemning sinful folly; **it is a book of life**, showing the way from everlasting death. What crowns it all is that **God is its author**.

Good morning friends. It's great to have you tuned in this morning as we come to you live over this radio station.

Our lesson today is "The Bible: The Word of God." Before we proceed to talk about that, I take pleasure in inviting you to the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is at the corner of College and North Streets. Our services times today are 9:30 and 10:20 AM and 6:00 PM. Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand

A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Discussion

A fundamental belief of the Christian religion is that God has spoken to us. In Hebrews 1:1,2, the writer said:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

The fact that God has spoken to us is startling and significant. It presupposes that we can know what God wants us **to believe and do**. Furthermore, it presupposes that God has a right to command us. His wisdom is far greater than our own; He knows better than we how **we** ought to think and live in His world.

Today, we have the will of God expressed to us through the Bible. We understand **as we read the Bible**, that **God is speaking to us**. In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul wrote:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

These verses give us the eternal declaration that the Bible is God’s Word. The Bible is divine authority for us

today. That fact ought to weigh heavily upon our minds as we read it.

What are the reasons for accepting the Bible as the Word of God? We preachers may too often assume that everyone who attends a worship service has this question thoroughly thought out. We frequently assume that everyone knows and believes the authenticity of the Bible. But the truth is, everyone has **not studied the matter** through and it is **not a settled question** in the minds of many. Everyone's faith regarding the truth of the Bible ought to be re-examined from time to time.

Reasons for Rejection

One reason for people not accepting the Bible as meaningful for their lives today is that **the Bible is so old!**

The Bible is an old book. It has been around a long, long time; but that does not mean it's out-dated or obsolete. By no means!

Sunshine has been around a long time and we still need it.

Oxygen has been around a long time and we still need it.

Bread has been around a long time and we still eat it.

Water has been around a long time and we still need it.

Flowers and trees have been around a long time and we still need them.

Just because a book like the Bible has been around a long time does not mean it's of no value or of no importance anymore.

The Bible is still needed today.
The Bible is still good today.
The Bible is still appropriate today.
The Bible is still marvelous today.
The Bible is still life changing today.
The Bible is still soul changing today.

It is still good for the soul.
It is still necessary for salvation.
It is still practical for life.
It is still worth our attention.
It is still needed by everybody.
It is still within reach of all.
It is still precious to those who believe.

The Bible is the book for all seasons and times. It is the book for the spring and summer; fall and winter. It is the book for a holiday or a work-day. It is the book for the here and now, as well as for the there and then. "Don't leave home without it."

It will help you to:

build on the right foundation
believe the right gospel
teach the right doctrine
worship the right God

live the right lifestyle
head in the right direction.

Your faith will be strengthened; your mind will be assured; your character will be molded; your burdens will be lifted; and your fears will be banished; your doubts will be dissolved; joy will be renewed; sorrows will be removed; morale be boosted; and your life will be changed.

Another reason why people reject the Bible is they believe it is not scientifically respectable. It was never the purpose of the Bible to be a scientific work. Nowhere does it pretend to be a textbook on geology, astronomy, or medicine. It is fundamentally a religious book, but when we search through the Bible, we find that it agrees with all that men have proven to be scientifically true in areas of geology, geography, etc.

Suppose I were to write a document in the field of agriculture.

Suppose, also, in doing that I have to make casual comments touching on the fields of economics and chemistry. But suppose these occasional remarks would reveal total inaccuracies on my part. Would it not reflect on me as the author? Would it not reflect, to some extent, on the book itself? That is the way we must look at the Bible.

Friends, here is the truth. People do not really reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, **people reject the Bible**

because it contradicts them! — and the way they wish to live!!

Allow me to tell you the story of Sir William Ramsay. And I quote:

“The name of this man is unique among the skeptics of the world. He did not believe the Bible was the inspired word of God. He was confident that it was the product of some ambitious monks, that it was shot through with error and was totally unreliable. Yet, he did not content himself to sit upon some barstool or in some school of higher education and make his blasphemous assertions — he determined to head an expedition and scientifically prove that the Bible was wrong.

“The year was 1881. Ramsay was a young man of sterling integrity and unimpeachable character. His years of education had all been in an atmosphere of doubt. He regarded the weakest part of the New Testament the story of Paul’s travels. Because those journeys had never been carefully investigated, Ramsay announced that he was going to use the book of Acts as a guide, retrace those missionary journeys, and thus prove that they could not have occurred as the Bible described them.

“Equipped as no other man had been, Ramsay went to the Bible Lands and spent fifteen long years digging out the evidence. Skeptics confidently

expected that all of their allegations and assertions would be substantiated. In 1896, Ramsay published a large volume entitled **St. Paul, the Traveler and the Roman Citizen**. Instead of attacking the Bible, however, the book expressed confidence in the accuracy of the Bible Account.

“The chagrin and confusion of the skeptics increased as Ramsay for the next twenty years wrote book after book with nothing but praise for the accuracy and truthfulness of the Bible. These books contain such statements as:

‘The narrative never makes a false step . . .’

‘Every minute fact stated in Acts has its own significance’

‘. . .the New Testament is unique in the compactness and the vivid truthfulness of its expression.’

‘. . . Luke is a safe guide’

‘whenever the present writer followed Luke’s authority absolutely. . .he was right down to the last detail.’

“Thus, we have before us a unique story indeed. The story of a skeptic who was willing to do more than talk. Many unbelievers have never even seriously studied the Bible — Ramsay was willing to investigate every detail. Thus, a man who was

determined to destroy the Bible is today recognized as one of its greatest friends. The man whom the skeptics trusted to be their strongest ally has strangely become their most formidable opponent. It is to be regretted that the world has not been blessed with more skeptics as honest as Sir William Ramsay.”

Reasons to Receive

Why do we believe the Bible as the verbally inspired word of the living God? In actuality, there are more reasons than there is time to discuss them, at least on this particular broadcast. One reason to mention is **fulfilled prophecy**.

Stretched throughout the Bible are hundreds of prophecies. Events that were to be unfolded at a later time were foretold long before they ever happened. Isaiah, for example, told of the annihilation of the city of Babylon four hundred years before the event actually happened (Isaiah 14). Babylon would also be so destroyed that **not a sign would remain. And it was so!** Fulfilled prophecy is the strongest element of proof to demonstrate the truthfulness of the Bible. Begin a study of these prophecies today and watch your faith grow!

When we realize that God told about events hundreds of years ahead of time, and we realize they all came to pass just as they were foretold, it is not hard for reasonable and rational minds to believe and accept the Bible to have its origination from God.

Conclusion

Everybody ought to read the Bible:

every President, King, Queen, **should study the Bible.**

every lawyer, politician and judge **should study the Bible.**

every doctor, scientist and inventor **should study the Bible.**

every carpenter, painter and artist **should study the Bible.**

every teacher, singer and speaker **should study the Bible.**

every athlete, student and laborer **should study the Bible.**

every mom and dad, grandmother and grandfather,
aunt and uncle, son and daughter **should study the Bible.**

every race and nation **should study the Bible.**

every tribe and civilization **should study the Bible.**

every culture and town **should study the Bible.**

every dwelling and habitation **should study the Bible.**

I trust that this lesson today will help you to become a better student of the Bible.

Thanks for being a part of our listening audience.

The Amazing Jesus

Introduction

By any reckoning, Jesus was amazing. Born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and slain just outside the city of Jerusalem, Jesus never left the country then called Palestine. He wrote no books, commanded no armies and won no elections. Yet His words and actions have fascinated **great** minds, inspired **great** deeds and aroused **great** hopes ever since. He is truly **the** amazing Jesus.

Good morning to all listening. It is great to have you tuned in today to the “Words of Life” gospel broadcast on the Lord’s Day. This program is brought to you by the Mountain Home Church of Christ meeting at College and North Streets. On behalf of all the congregation at College and North, I invite you to visit with us in our worship services today at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and 6:00 PM. Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand
A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

“The Amazing Jesus”

Many men and movements have claimed Him as their

hero and inspiration. Peering down the well of history, they have seen their own reflection. Revolutionaries have seen in Jesus a fellow freedom fighter. Hippies have seen a fellow drop-out from society. There are many different ways of seeing Jesus. How do **you** see Him? More importantly, how is He pictured in the **Bible**?

The story of Jesus is told in the four biographical books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In their accounts of the Lord's life, they leave out some of the things we would really like to know, such as a description of the Lord's personal appearance; how tall he was, the color of his eyes, etc.

Nevertheless, the gospel writers provide dozens of episodes showing us how Jesus treated people, how he coped with popularity, handled critics, answered questions and taught disciples.

On one occasion, Jesus asked His apostles for feedback from the public regarding His identity. They told Him that the people were undecided. Everyone agreed that Jesus was a man of God. Some thought He was Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Some even thought he was John the Baptizer returned from the dead. But when Jesus pressed the apostles for **their personal reply** ("*who do ye say that I am?*"), Simon Peter had no hesitation in answering, "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" (Matthew 16:16-18). The Bible shows us Jesus **as He really was** — not as **we would have Him to be**.

People do indeed look at Jesus in different ways. For example, the atheist says there is no God to father the Lord Jesus Christ. The modernist looks at Jesus as a good man, a great teacher, perhaps the greatest man who ever lived, **but not divine, not the only begotten Son of God.** The agnostic looks at Jesus and sees nothing, being unable to see the forest because of the trees of his own doubts. Of course, these views are similar to a degree; **they seek to achieve the same purpose; namely, opposition to Christ and His cause.**

Then there is Jesus as He is pictured in the Bible. This is the proper way, the only way, to see Him.

All in all, the historical impact of Jesus has been astonishing. He spent only three years in the public eye. Three years in a fairly remote corner of the Roman Empire. He died at thirty-three, about half the age of Karl Marx or Chairman Mao; to say nothing of Confucius, Buddha and Mohammed. Yet His life has changed the history of the world — for the better.

It was not until Jesus was about thirty that He began His public ministry, about three years preaching, teaching and training His disciples.

Jesus not only taught supreme and lofty lessons of truth and right. He practiced what he preached. He did not merely talk about the love and power of the Kingdom of God, He showed it. He lived it.

The Bible Picture

How does the Bible picture Jesus?

1. **The Bible first pictures Him as a man who went about doing good** (Acts 10:38). He performed miracles. The purpose of these wonders was not merely to benefit humanity, but more than that to demonstrate His deity (John 20:30,31).

There is no doubt Jesus performed miracles of healing. Even His enemies did not doubt it. In fact, it is impossible to “modernize” the story of Jesus by keeping His teachings and throwing away His miracles. The two go together so closely that you cannot have one without the other.

Jesus healed all kinds of illnesses. The blind were given sight, the deaf were made to hear, the paralyzed were given strength to walk. Even lepers were cured. On three occasions Jesus even raised the dead to life again. He accomplished cures without elaborate ritual or mumbo-jumbo. Jesus never intended to be sensational; just compare that to the alleged miracle workers shown on television today.

2. **The Bible pictures Jesus as a preacher.** The first time Jesus preached, He was nearly killed. In Luke 4, He was speaking in His hometown synagogue, to the people He had known since boyhood. Luke says He read a passage from the prophecy of Isaiah.

*“The spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed me*

*to preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

This was a direct reference to Isaiah 61:1,2.

He then rolled up the scroll and gave it back, and sat down. His next words must have fallen like a bombshell. He said: *“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”* (Luke 4:21). In other words, He was claiming that **right then** and **right there** God was doing all those miraculous things through Him.

Within minutes, the congregation hauled Him from the synagogue and dragged Him to the edge of a cliff, fully intending to kill Him. But the Lord’s hour had not yet come. By His great power, He simply passed through the crowd and went His way.

The whole episode was typical of the kind of preaching He would do and the kind of division He would cause. He was that kind of preacher.

3. The Bible picture of Jesus is that He was divine. The people who heard Jesus were openly astonished at the authority by which He spoke. His lessons were peppered with *“ye have heard that it hath been said, . . . but I say unto you!!”* He was willing to put His words right up against the

time-honored traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees.

Gradually, it became unmistakably clear, to friend and foe alike, that Jesus of Nazareth was claiming God's authority to a very special degree.

He spoke of Himself in such a way to claim deity itself:
John 6:35:

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

John 8:12: *"I am the light of the world."* Most emphatically of all in **John 8:58:** *"Before Abraham was, I am."*

A claim to be eternal! The people were so provoked, they immediately took up stones to kill Him on the spot. Again, however, the Lord went His way.

Jesus claimed the power and authority of God in other ways. He said He could forgive sins.

To the disciples, He said quite simply: *"I and the Father are one"* (John 10:30). Jesus was not merely godly — **He was God!!**

The life of our Savior was matchless in all of its aspects. **No man** was ever born as was He. **No man** has ever lived as did He. **No man** has ever died as He died. **No man** has ever conquered the grave as did He. His message was matchless, both in its content and in the manner of its delivery.

During the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, Jesus taught in the temple. The people were divided concerning Him, some saying that He was a good man, others charging that He was a deceiver. Others could not understand why He was not arrested by the authorities. They claimed to be seeking Him, and yet, He appeared in the most public places, and none dared to arrest Him. The Chief Priests and Pharisees inquired of the officers: “*Why have ye not brought Him?*” The officers answered: “*Never man spake like this man*” (John 7:45,46).

These words ring through the ages as a profound truth. The statement of these ancient officers is as true today as it was then. With all our modern wisdom, with the highly developed speech of our age; it still remains true, **that never man spake like Jesus did.**

In what ways were the words of Jesus different from the words of any others? He spake with authority. When He had finished His wonderful sermon on the Mountain, it is said that “*the people were astonished at His doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes*” (Matthew 7:28,29). The word “authority” carries the idea of ultimate power or control. In the absence of authority, there is chaos. There can be no government without authority being vested in someone. The game of life must be played according to rules, and there can be no rules without **rule-making authority** being vested somewhere. The full authority of God is vested in Christ. Although God

had, in ages past, spoken through Moses and the prophets, on the Mount of Transfiguration He caused Moses and Elias to fade from the scene, and from the throne on high announced: *“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, **Hear ye Him**”* (Matthew 17:5). After His resurrection, Jesus declared *“all authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth”* (Matthew 28:18). His is the ultimate authority. **With all the authority of heaven and of earth in His possession, there can be no extra or additional authority to originate from human sources. Any authority exercised by man or set of men on earth can be no more than a delegated authority, an authority delegated by Him who has all authority.**

There are those who try to find authority for their faith and conduct **in the writings of heathen philosophers; in the voice of poets, ancient and modern; in the sayings of men of genius; in the political and religious councils of men.** But from none of these sources has there ever come a word of authority that could command the hearts of men, and that could of its own weight and power show itself to be the authority of heaven.

Religiously, there is grave danger of the acceptance of any authority, other than that of Christ. The confused condition of our religious world today is largely due to a failure to recognize the authority of Christ as Supreme. **When we get to the point** of no longer justifying our religious beliefs on the basis of tradition, personal whim, and the teachings

of men and cultic leaders, **when we get to the point** of allowing our lives to be governed by the will of Him who has all authority, **then there will be the unity of all believers Jesus prayed for.**

We should all bow at the feet of Him who “*spake as never man spake*” and regard His word as final in all the avenues of life.

The Bible picture of Jesus is of a preacher who was really in touch. No man ever spoke with such knowledge of life as did Jesus. No man ever maintained such calmness and evenness of disposition in the face of life’s crises. For a philosophy of life (and no man can live sanely without some sort of philosophy) we need not go further than the words of Him who spake as never man spake. The principles of life announced by the Christ (though at such variance with the philosophies by which most men live) have never been equaled for practical value. For instance, consider the desire to be great. Men have sought greatness through many avenues. To attest their greatness, some have erected gigantic monuments. But the hand of time has effaced these structures and erased from them all evidences of the greatness of their builders. Some, to evidence their greatness, have amassed great fortunes, only to have their greatness vanish in the rust and tarnish of their gold. While many have strived for greatness, only a few have attained it. These are they who have lived by the principle announced by Jesus: “*Whosoever will be great among you, shall be*

your servant” (Mark 10:44), and have realized that *“everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased: and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted”* (Luke 18:14).

Jesus, the divine preacher, spoke with boldness. When a high priest pretended to be seeking a knowledge of His message, Jesus declared:

“I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why asketh thou me? Ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: Behold, they know what I said” (John 18:20,21).

There was no hypocrisy back of His message. There was no catering to “the powers that be”. The Pharisees were the socially elite and politically powerful people of His day. The Publicans were the most despised and rejected people of the time. Still, Jesus did not hesitate to compare the two to the benefit of the despised publicans (Luke 18:10-14).

In spite of the boldness of the speech of Jesus, His words also had a love for all humanity. As He spake to the multitude, we are told that *“they all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth”* (Luke 4:22)

The gentleness and tenderness and graciousness of the words of Christ are seen in His dealings with little children.

Hear His gentle tones, as He says:

“Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven”
(Matthew 19:14).

Hear His precious invitation to all the sin-laden sons of men in Matthew 11:28-30:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am the meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The messages of the Lord Jesus Christ were perfectly balanced messages. His words could burn like fire, but they could also be as soothing as the whisper of a mother’s love.

Conclusion

Here are some of the beautiful Bible pictures of the amazing Jesus Christ:

1. He was one who went about doing good.
2. He was a preacher.
3. He was the divine Son of God.

We ask again, “How do you see Jesus?” See Him for what He is — the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. He is the One who said in Mark 16:16:

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

The question is not only “How do you see Him?” but
“When are you going to obey Him?”

Thanks for being with us today.

Who Was Jesus?

Introduction

Who is Jesus? Is He the altogether and purely human Jesus of the play “Jesus Christ, Superstar?” Is He the emotional and shallow Jesus of the “Jesus Freaks?” Is He merely a good moral teacher like Socrates? or just another founder of a religion like Confucius? or Mohammed? or is He the Only Begotten Son of God? Just who is Jesus anyway?

Good morning friends and welcome to the “Words of Life” gospel broadcast.

I would begin this morning by extending to you and your family a special and personal invitation to be with the Mountain Home Church of Christ in our worship services today. We meet at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and 6:00 PM and each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand
A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Who Was Jesus?

This important question is raised in the early verses of

the eleventh chapter of Matthew. John the Baptizer had completed his ministry and was in Machaerus prison, east of the Dead Sea. He had been unjustly accused and thrown into prison at the whim of King Herod. Languishing there, he evidently became concerned because Jesus, the Lamb of God for whom he had prepared the way, had not acted quickly enough and decisively enough, according to his thinking. John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask a significant question. The text reads:

“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:2-5).

John’s question is supremely important. It is a question that men, for many different reasons, are still asking.

The Divinity of Jesus

Perhaps the most significant biblical passage on the subject of the identity of Christ is that found in Matthew 16:13-17:

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do

men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

This revelation of the divinity of Jesus to Peter was **confirmed by the sinless life which Jesus lived, by the unique quality of His teaching, by His miracles and ultimately by His death, resurrection and ascension.** He was no ordinary man. He had all the earmarks of divinity. The disciples, who knew Him best, were willing to give up **everything that men normally hold dear and to invest their lives in the confident faith that Jesus was the Messiah.** No wonder people marveled at the teaching of this man who lacked a higher education. No wonder they followed Him everywhere, hanging on His words. *“No one ever taught like this,”* they said, and they were right. There are some remarkable things about Jesus and His teaching. As well as teaching the highest standards known to mankind, He actually kept them. **He not only taught people to love their enemies, but also forgave those who crucified Him. He not only called people to lay down their life for their friends, but actually did it.** It makes Him the

most remarkable of all teachers. Yes, Jesus was a great moral teacher. But neither He, nor His followers, will allow us to get away with the idea that He was that and no more. He made the most astonishing claims; claims that have never been paralleled. He claimed that He could forgive people's sins, that He had the right to people's worship, that He alone represented the way to God, the truth of God and the life of God, that He had come to seek and save the lost, that He would give His life as a ransom for many, that He would rise from the dead, and that on the day of judgment, humanity would be accountable to Him! If He was only a teacher, He was a very misleading one for He claimed to be more than a good teacher. The claims of Christ convinced some of the most determined men in the world. It convinced skeptics, political leaders, fishermen, tax collectors and violent opponents like the brilliant Saul of Tarsus who became the most ardent believer. The claims of Christ have convinced millions of people all over the world ever since. But why should **we** believe His claims? Many have made false claims for themselves. Many psychiatric hospitals contain deluded individuals. **Was He a sham?** But is it credible that this man who was so ruthless against hypocrisy should have built His whole ministry on a lie? Is it possible that He would have allowed Himself to be executed in the most excruciating of deaths for what He knew was untrue? **Or was He simply mistaken?** That will hardly do. If the greatest teacher of all is mistaken about the central issue of His life and claims, He is not such a great

teacher after all. If we discredit what He has to say about His origin and authority, why should we pay any attention to the rest of His teaching?

Jesus of Nazareth was not simply a great moral teacher. He cuts too deep and steps out too far from the crowd for that. We can call Him a liar, but we cannot sustain such a charge.

Jesus of Nazareth is the central figure of all history. **Every letter you write, every book you read, every significant event in your life** (birth, graduation, marriage, death, etc.) **is dated in relation to His life!** All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the assemblies that ever met, and all the rulers that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has the life of Jesus Christ!

The story began in the long ago when God had created man, and man had rebelled against God. Man, estranged from God, needed to be redeemed. Because of His great love for man, God inaugurated a plan for man's salvation which eventually led to the coming of Jesus of Nazareth. Even before He was born, there were hundreds of prophecies about His coming.

The Word Became Flesh

In the fullness of time, Jesus came to live among men, but that was not the beginning of His existence. Christ had existed before the world, before the beginning of time. At

the outset of his account of the life of Christ, John wrote:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-4,14).

In later centuries this has been called **the incarnation**, the Son of God living in the flesh among men. This coming of the Messiah was the evidence of **God’s great love for men**.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

When He had grown to be a man, Jesus began His public ministry. He went about teaching the people a new and better way of life. Jesus went about doing good: healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, restoring hearing to the deaf, working miracles and performing signs.

The people said of Him, *“What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”* (Matthew 8:27). He was **like** other men, and yet he was **unlike** other men, for the things which He did **were of God**. In addition, He was

“one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He had the **same inclinations** of the flesh, **the same temptations** to live as the world lives, but **in every instance** He triumphed over them.

He selected men from every walk of life to be His disciples. He attracted the sick and the well, the poor and the rich, the unlearned and the wise, from every walk of life, and from all age brackets. And men were impressed by the life that He lived. Even His enemies could find nothing evil in Him. Yet, strange as it seems, the reception man gave this perfect life was murder on a cross.

But Christ is not still hanging on the cross. Calvary was only a moment in the life of Christ, and while it was a climactic moment, it was only for a little while that He hung on the cross and only for three days that He remained in the tomb. The real Jesus is alive, living forevermore! As the writer of Hebrews put it, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8). He ascended into heaven and there reigns triumphantly. Not only does He reign in heaven, but also in the hearts and lives of millions of people who have been blessed by Him. Is He merely a great teacher and ethical guide, like Socrates? Is He simply the founder of a religion like Confucius or Mohammed? Or, **is He uniquely the divine Son of God? His perfect life, His superior teachings, His genuine miracles and His death and resurrection** combine to prove that **He was and is** the son of God.

Christ can make us over. He can take our old, sinful lives and make them clean again. Believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart, announce that faith to those about you, repent of your past sins and then enter into that wonderful new relationship with Christ that comes when you are baptized. He promises to cleanse you of sin and set you on a new road leading to eternal life in heaven. Ultimately, **it is Christ or nothing at all.** He is the last and best hope of earth, **the only hope of earth!**

We thank you very much for lending us your ears this morning. We certainly hope you will continue to listen to the “Words of Life” broadcast.

The Blood of Christ

Introduction

What can:

wash away our sins	free us from Satan's slavery
lift us from the gutter	make us whole again and
redeem our souls	cleanse us from corruption
give us everlasting life?	

Nothing, but nothing, than the blood of Jesus Christ!

Good morning to all listening. We trust all to be well with you. This is the "Words of Life". Today I want to talk to you about the **greatest stain remover in the world**. It is the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:7 declares:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Before I proceed further, I would like very much to extend to all of our listeners an invitation to be with the Mountain Home Church of Christ for worship services today. Our church building is located at the corner of College and North Streets. This morning we meet at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and this evening at 6:00 PM. Each Wednesday evening we meet at 7:00 PM.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand
A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

What the New Age philosophies of men can never do; what the modernistic theologies of today can never do; what an in depth knowledge of man can never do; what the scientific developments of man can never do; and what the modern marvels of medicine can never do — the **redeeming**, the **royal, rich, ruby-red blood** of God's only begotten Son **can do** and **does do!**

Let us pause, ponder and hopefully profit from some thoughts relative to the blood of Christ. Today many people in religion are trying to eliminate the word "blood" from hymn books and the Bible. They have no wish nor desire to even mention in any way the idea of "blood." They object to singing such songs as "There Is Power In **The Blood**".

They also are repulsed to read Bible passages such as:

Hebrews 9:22b: *"Without shedding of blood is no remission."*

Matthew 26:28: *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

1 Peter 1:19: *"redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"*

Revelation 1:5b: *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”*

Friends, many of these people who are trying to eliminate blood from the Bible are not infidels and skeptics. No, indeed! Many of them are religious people who just do not like the concept of **blood-redemption**. Thus, they try to **de-emphasize** (if not completely do away with) the whole idea of **blood-redemption**.

The New Testament is a blood-sealed document (Hebrews 9:18). When the Lord Jesus Christ sealed the New Testament with His blood, He blotted out or set aside that covenant which had been sealed with the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 10:4-17). When we say the Old Testament has been set aside, we simply mean that it no longer is **binding** on God’s people in its **specific teachings**. Under the Old Testament, animal sacrifices, mechanical instruments of music and the burning of incense were authorized. Today these specific details from the Old Testament are no longer binding. The **New Testament** is the law that is to govern the people of God today. All the scriptures are binding in principle but the **New Testament is binding both in principle and specific teaching**. Romans 15:4 informs us that *“whatsoever things were written aforetime were **written** for our learning.”* We do not have to build altars, erect a great and fabulous Temple and slaughter sheep and goats and bulls and send up incense. Why? Because that Old Testament was set aside when

Christ was nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14).

We must understand that the Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ (what we call the New Testament) is a spiritual covenant. Friends, **it must mean much to us to know that the Son of God blotted out that old law sealed by the blood of creatures and instituted a new covenant sealed with the blood of the one and only Christ.** If today we respect and honor the blood of Christ, we are going to have to be guided by the **New Testament.** This New Testament is the way which God speaks to us today through His Son. Hebrews 1:1,2 says:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

If we intend to properly regard the blood of Christ, we must begin by **a better study, a deeper study, a fuller study** of the New Testament. A day should never pass that we have not studied a portion of the New Testament.

This is not to say that we disregard the Old Testament. This is not to say that **we never study it, that we never preach from it, that we never read it;** but **it is to say that we are bound by the New Testament to God because the blood of His Son sealed or confirmed it.** The **blood of animals sealed the Old Testament, but the blood of Jesus Christ sealed the New Testament.** Yes, the Old

Testament has lessons for us; **there are examples, there are types (patterns) found there; there are admonitions, there are principles by which God dealt with people back then that serve as warnings of how He will deal with us today; but, dear listeners, there is not a single rule found in the Old Testament that God wants us to keep, that He has not expounded more fully in the New Testament. There is not one single thing that man can do today to please God that can be found outside the New Testament!** Think about that seriously. Keep an open mind. No, emphatically no, we do not repudiate and reject the Old Testament; we love it and honor it and study it — it serves many marvelous functions and serves numerous needed purposes. It encourages us, it comforts us, it strengthens us, it helps and aids us along life's way; it greatly fills up our empty reservoirs of faith, hope and love. It puts high-octane fuel in our tanks. It puts coal in our furnaces and wood in our fires. The Old Testament gives faith and much needed lessons on life.

But, for all that, we do not go to it for guidance (specific teaching), but we do use it for the great principles of faith it teaches and emulates. **Are you thinking correctly (biblically) about the blood of Christ by regarding the New Testament and Old Testament in the manner in which God wants you to?**

Those individuals who dislike the idea of blood in the Bible do not realize that **the church was actually pur-**

chased by blood. Paul says to the elders of the church at Ephesus that Christ had purchased the church “*with His own blood*” (Acts 20:28). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bought the church with His blood. If you ever get anything **out of the blood**, you must **get into the church**.

Let us suppose a man goes out to a shopping mall and purchases a hat for \$25. If ever that man is to receive any benefit or good from that \$25, he must make use of his new hat. The only way he will ever get any good out of the money is through the hat. If he has no use for the hat or is neglectful or indifferent toward it, his money is in vain.

The very same thing applies in reference to the church. If ever you receive any benefit or blessing from Christ’s blood, poured out at the cross of Calvary, then you must get into the church; **live, work and die** in the church of the Lord. Why? Because it was purchased with the blood of God’s Son.

The blood of Christ and the church of Christ are inseparably linked. If the church is not necessary to the salvation, then neither is the blood of Christ. If the church has nothing to do with saving souls, then the blood has nothing to do with saving souls. It is impossible to give due regard to the blood of Christ without giving due regard to the church of Christ.

When you read the blood-sealed Book, whenever you die to sin and are buried in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life, **you have been bought with the blood and**

washed in the blood (Romans 6:1-4).

By means of the blood of Christ . . .

- a sinner becomes a saint
- the lost becomes found
- the guilty becomes forgiven and
- the hell-bound becomes the heaven-bound!

The moment one obeys the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ many things happen. Things happen then that will never happen again. It is a moment that causes heaven to rejoice and angels to sing. It is a moment that holds the value of eternity within it. No other experience, no matter how exciting, how thrilling, how enriching, how enlightening — can quite compare with it. Never is so much accomplished in so short a time as when one goes down into the water and comes up out of the water as a new creation. When you obey the gospel . . .

- a complete and wondrous transformation occurs
- a total change of direction happens
- an absolute turnabout in living takes place and
- an adjustment of goals and purposes transpires.

Here's the blood-bought story:

- as sinners we had been robbed, beaten and left for dead, **but God** in mercy and grace enriched us, healed us and clothed us.
- as sinners we had been contaminated, disgraced

and condemned, **but God** cleansed, enhanced and forgave us.

- as sinners we had been hated, abused and burdened, **but God** loved us, lifted us and loosed us.

We had been scorned, deceived and oppressed, **but God** cherished, enlightened and sanctified us.

We had been suffering, shackled and stained, **but God** liberated, relieved and sanctified us.

We had been weakened, depressed and stunned, **but God** strengthened, encouraged and revived us.

All by the blood of Christ!!

“O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

Satan had ruined us, **but God** remolded us.

Satan gave us rubbish, **but God** gave us riches.

Satan gave us grime, **but God** gave us glory.

Satan gave us junk, **but God** gave us jewels.

All of this and much, much, much more happened when we were washed in the blood of the Lamb.

What a before and after picture the blood of Christ makes:

- before the blood we were strangers; after, we are

children of God.

- before the blood we were miserably poor; after, we are immeasurably rich.
- before we were clad in nothing; after, we don robes of royalty.

Conclusion

The more one considers its scope; the more one meditates upon its greatness; the more one thinks about its blessedness; the more one contemplates its benefits; the more one examines its privileges; the more one sees its opportunities; and the more one ponders its possibilities, the greater the message and the **greater the meaning the blood of Christ has!**

If you will be saved by the blood of Christ it means that:

- you no longer have to feel the heavy burden of past sins.
- you no longer have to stumble around in spiritual darkness.
- you no longer lie awake at night worrying about what you have done wrong.

What a blessing and privilege to be covered by the blood of Christ!!

I can only hope that someone listening today has been touched by a serious and sober consideration of these mat-

ters. You know the Lord loves you. You know He died for you. You know someday He is coming again to receive you to Himself. Why not today contact us at the Mountain Home Church of Christ so we can baptize you and humbly help get you started living the Christian life?

Thanks for listening. May God bless you is our prayer.

Questions Regarding the Church

Introduction

When Groucho Marx was asked why he didn't belong to any clubs, he replied that he would never join any club which would have him as a member!

In the church, it is just the opposite. The church is a gathering of men and women who have accepted the precious invitation of Jesus Christ to come to Him by obeying the gospel.

To this very day, the church of the Bible exists for those who are sinners (but who want to be saved from their sins). They want the forgiveness of God, and they want to become the children of God.

Good morning friends. This is the "Words of Life" live gospel broadcast brought to you by the Mountain Home Church of Christ. We trust all to be well with you today.

I want to invite you and your family to attend the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is located at the corner of College and North Streets. We meet this morning at 9:30, 10:20 AM and at 6:00 PM this evening and each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. The welcome mat is always out for you.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand
A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Friends, when the New Testament talks of the church, it never means a large ornate building with stained glass windows and a steeple pointing upward through the sky. To the contrary, it is always referring to **a gathering of believers** — **obedient believers** who have been called out of the moral darkness of the world into the radiant light of the Kingdom of God’s dear Son.

Let us ask (and hopefully answer) some pertinent questions about this institution in the Bible known simply as the church:

1. When Did it Begin?

The Lord’s church burst forth on the world scene in about the year 30 A.D. The place was Jerusalem, and the occasion was the Jewish festival known as Pentecost. In Acts 2 we read of the events of that historic day. Prior to the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), in Luke 24:49 Jesus told the apostles to “tarry” or wait in the city of Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit should come upon them.

Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as of a rushing mighty wind and the Spirit was manifested by cloven tongues as of fire. On this great and notable occa-

sion the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The apostles then began to speak in “other tongues” (which means they were speaking in foreign languages). Travelers from all over the then known world (“devout men of every nation”) were astonished to hear in their own languages these poor men of Galilee praising the God of heaven. The gospel of Christ was getting off to a marvelous start as Peter stood up with the eleven other apostles and, for **the first time in history, proclaimed the gospel as an accomplished fact!**

Peter made the astonishing claim that Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the grave. Allow me to read his words from Acts 2:36-41:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly

received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

On this day, at this time and on this occasion the nucleus of believers was increased by 3000 souls. Three thousand had the courage to obey the apostolic command to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

The story continues to get better — better and better still. The early church grew by leaps and bounds. And it began with the preaching of the apostles back there in the city of Jerusalem. When arrested and threatened with imprisonment and death, they argued and pressed their case with even greater dedication and enthusiasm. Their message was that Jesus was the Promised Deliverer and that all men should turn to Him for forgiveness and new life with God.

The good news was further accentuated by the remarkable warmth and genuine friendship among the believers everywhere. They shared their belongings and possessions; they helped those who were in need and they met every day in the temple in Jerusalem to worship God. They even met in one another's homes to dine together. There was a contagious gladness about this religious group and it is no wonder that their numbers increased very rapidly. They were a most appealing group of people.

At first their ranks were composed of mainly Hebrews or Jewish converts, but before long, Gentiles were added in

ever increasing numbers. This was truly a **people's church**. Rich and poor could come; men and women could come; high and low could come; Jew and Gentile and black and white could come. Jesus had said *"He that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (John 6:37). The Lord's Invitation had been *"Come unto me . . ."* (Matthew 11:28-30). Friends, from the beginning, Christianity has been "the whosoever religion" — whosoever will, may come and take the water of life freely. Barrier after barrier was broken down as multitudes came to the Lord. Samaritans obeyed the gospel in Acts 8:5-12; an African politician confessed faith in Christ and was baptized in Acts 8:27-39. Even Saul of Tarsus, the cruel and merciless persecutor of disciples, was converted. His life-changing, earth-shaking and history-making turnabout is recorded in Acts 9:22-26.

In Acts 10 and 11 Simon Peter went into the home of Cornelius, a Roman Army officer. This was a precedent-making conversion as Cornelius and his household became the first Gentile converts to the gospel, without previously being subjected to the Jewish rite of circumcision.

Eventually, the church in Jerusalem was persecuted; but this only had the unexpected benefit of scattering the believers over a wider area, for wherever they went, the gospel went with them. Acts 8:4 says:

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."

The gospel continued to spread by leaps and bounds,

eventually, encompassing the entire Roman world. This was the beginning, the glorious beginning, what a beginning!!

In Acts 4:32,33 is stated regarding the early church:

“and the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul . . . and with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”

Acts 2:47 also says:

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

2. What is The Church Like?

There are many ways in the New Testament that the church is pictured. Each way is used to teach a particular truth about the church (relative to its nature and work).

The church is likened to the Temple of God. In the Old Testament the Temple was the place where people worshiped God. The temple was the place God had specified to worship. The Lord told His people to destroy the places of heathen worship (Deuteronomy 12:13). God then told them that He would appoint a place to record His name and there — not some other place — **but there** they were to bring their sacrifices and offerings (Deuteronomy 12:4,5). The people were warned not to offer sacrifices to God at just any

place but in the place God himself would select (Deuteronomy 12:13,14).

Friends, the church today is the Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). The church of the Lord is even referred to as “*the household of God*” (1 Timothy 3:15). There was just one Temple under the Old Testament. There is only one church today.

To be in the church is to be “in Christ”. Only “in Christ” is our worship acceptable to God. Only those “in Christ” can serve God in an acceptable manner.

The church is also likened to the flock of God. Shepherding was a common occupation in the ancient Bible world. The church is called “*the flock of God*” (Acts 20:28). Christ is the Chief Shepherd of the sheep. Man himself is like a sheep in many ways. Sheep need protection against wolves and false shepherds. A sheep gets in danger and it is the shepherd who comes to the rescue.

Jesus, our Great Shepherd, leads us beside still water, leads us into green pastures and He restores the soul.

The church is the body of Christ. If the church is the body, then He is the head. The Head leads, makes decisions and controls the rest of the body. Every believer is like a part of the body — **every part different but every part necessary!** Paul pointed out that the eye is different from the foot, but neither could get along very well without the other. By working in harmony, the church of the Lord Jesus

Christ is able to demonstrate the greatest unity in the world.

3. How Do We Enter the Church?

If the church of the scriptures is as important as the Bible teaches, then it is vital that we understand how to get into it.

Acts 2:47 says the Lord adds the saved to the church. Friends, if the Lord adds them, that eliminates man's voting you into the church. What right does one human being have to vote another human being into the church that belongs to the Lord? If it belongs to the Lord, then, let Him tell us how to enter into it.

In 1 Corinthians 12:13 we read *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body . . ."* We are **baptized into the body**, which is the church. Galatians 3:27 says *"for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ."*

Have you been baptized into Christ? into the body? into the church? By faith accept the Lord and **by faith** live for Him and **by faith** die in Him! This is a matter of great importance. Will you not give this matter your immediate attention?

We must accept the church we read about in the Bible — **exactly like God has made it**. The Lord doesn't need any interior decorators — Jesus is the head, founder, its sole authority, ruling His people through the document known as His Last Will and Testament. Man is a lowly mortal on this

earth, but man is blessed with the privilege of being in the church for which Jesus died.

We count you who listen as our friends. We wish the very best for you and yours. May God bless you richly is our prayer — and good day.

The Despair of Disbelief

Introduction

Dr. Carl Sagan, evolutionist and agnostic, in his new book, **The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark**, says that evolution should be “shouted from the pulpits”.

Also, Dr. Sagan, who is suffering from a rare bone disease, wrote in *Parade* news magazine on March 10 that:

“I would love to believe that when I die I will live again. That some thinking, feeling, remembering part of me will continue. But as much as I want to believe that, and despite the ancient and worldwide cultural traditions that assert an afterlife, I know of nothing to suggest that it is more than wishful thinking.”

He concluded by saying that even though thousands of religious people have prayed for him, that he doesn't believe, “If there is a God, his plan for me will be altered by prayer.”

Furthermore, he says of facing death without the certainty of an afterlife that “it hasn't been a problem”.

These sentiments tell us of “The Despair of Disbelief”. How about it? Is there life after death? Is there more beyond this world?

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A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Discussion

Dr. Carl Sagan is one of the most acknowledged scientists of modern times. He was named “Humanist of the Year” in 1981 and was featured in the “Cosmos” television series, shown around the world. In a *Parade* magazine article (included in the Baxter Bulletin) on March 10th, Sagan said:

“Four times now have I looked Death in the face... I would love to believe that when I die I will live again, that some thinking, feeling, remembering part of me will continue. But...I know of nothing to suggest that (an afterlife) is more than wishful thinking. He said ‘I cannot conceive of a god who rewards and punishes his creatures.’”

Is Sagan correct? Is there life beyond the grave? While we are sorry to hear of Dr. Sagan's fight for life and wish him the best possible health, yet, we must take issue with his disbelief in the immortality of man's soul. The poet H. W. Longfellow wrote words much closer to the truth:

“Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal.
‘Dust thou art, to dust returneth’
was not spoken of the soul.”

Bobby Deason has written a story entitled:

What Then?

A granddad was talking with his grandson who was about to graduate from the twelfth grade (high school). He asked the boy, “What are you going to do now?” The boy replied, “Get a job and work this summer.” “That’s good, son; what then?” asked the grandfather. The grandson said, “Then I’m going to college in the fall.” “Great,” was the grandfather’s reply. “What then?” The boy answered, “I want to study law and pass the bar exam and become a lawyer.” “That’s fine, what then?” said the grandfather. “I want to become a judge,” the boy retorted. “That’s a good profession,” grandfather encouraged. “What then?” “Well,” responded the boy, “I’d like to become a Supreme Court justice.” “That’s wonderful; you have set for yourself a very noble and attainable goal,” grandfather replied. “What then?”

“Grandfather!” the young man retorted, “I’d be a justice until I died.” “That’s true son. **What then?**” The young man had planned for his life on earth, but not for life eternal. His grandfather wanted him to see the other side of life — the most important side.

Down through the long years of time, the question of “what lies beyond?” has, no doubt, entered into man’s mind. In every heart, there has been and is a yearning to know what will be beyond.

Job

According to some, the book of Job was written before the books of Moses. We do know the book of Job is one of the earliest.

In this great Old Testament book comes a question from the lips of Job himself, “*If a man die, shall he live again?*” (Job 14:14). That question is by no means an unusual one, nor is it an isolated one. In generation after generation, under varying circumstances and situations, the question has echoed and echoed again. “*If a man die, shall he live again?*”

Cain

Adam and Eve were the first parents and Cain was their first born son. Abel was also born. In course of time, Cain killed Able. Is it not possible that as Cain stood over the body of his freshly murdered brother Able, that he may have

asked the question, *“If a man die, shall he live again?”*

Noah

Time passes and man increased in number, so also did he increase in iniquity. The wickedness of man became so great in the earth that every imagination of man’s heart was evil continually (Genesis 6:5). During these dark and immoral times, God decreed the end of all flesh. Noah found grace in the eyes of God and was commanded to build an ark, and in the ark, animals of the earth and Noah’s family were preserved. All outside the ark of safety would be lost. Perhaps the shrieks and death screams of desperate people on the outside, perishing in the flood water engulfing the earth could be heard. With death all about him, is it possible that Noah asked himself the question, *“If a man die, shall he live again?”*

Judas

The man who betrayed his Lord tightens the knot about his neck; Judas Iscariot is about to take a leap into eternity. Before he does, is it possible that he too could have asked himself the question, *“If a man die, shall he live again?”*

You

My friends, when death’s icy grip chokes your throat, will you ask the question, *“If a man dies, shall he live again?”* Dr. Sagan doesn’t think so. That’s regrettable. I hope he changes his mind. Approximately 5 billion human

beings live on this planet and every few seconds, another leaves. It is all important to leave it in the right way. The great tragedy is that most will not. Truly, “No man will go to heaven when he dies who has not sent his heart thither while he lives” (Colossians 3:1-2, 1 John 2:17). “Raccoon” John Smith, one of the distinguished preachers of the pioneer, said these words just before he died on February 28, 1868:

“What a great failure, after all, would my long and checkered life have been but for this glorious hope of a hereafter.”

One said heaven is “the perfection of all that can be said or thought.” Shakespeare wrote that heaven was “the treasury of everlasting joy.” My friends, heaven is what awaits!

Beyond death there is life.

Beyond the temporal there is the eternal.

Beyond the carnal there is the divine.

Beyond the earthly there is the heavenly.

For every earthly toil, there is a heavenly thrill.

For every earthly discord, there is a heavenly
harmony.

For every earthly crisis, there is a heavenly comfort.

For every earthly darkness, there is a heavenly
delight.

For every earthly pain, there is a heavenly
perfection.

For every earthly suffering, there is a heavenly

safety.

For the Christian, the grave is but a gateway into all that is glorious, wondrous, precious, fabulous, harmonious, joyous and tremendous. A gateway from . . .

earthly gloom . . . into heavenly glory

earthly rubble . . . into heavenly riches

earthly problems . . . into heavenly peace

earthly miseries . . . into heavenly mansions

earthly tribulations . . . into heavenly jubilation

earthly labors . . . into heavenly pleasure.

Conclusion

Let the Word of God guide you into all truth. Truth will set you free. The Bible teaches that preparation for death is to hear, believe and be baptized (Acts 18:8). And, then, live the Christian life until God chooses you for eternity.

Remember the question, *“If a man dies, shall he live again?”*

The answer is yes!! Thanks for tuning in, and good day.

Golden Things of the Bible

Introduction

People are interested in things that are valuable and useful. Stories of buried treasure are a delight to young and old alike. Many have been thrilled by the classic tale of R. L. Stevenson's **Treasure Island**. Students of the mythology of ancient Greece have read with pleasure the story of Jason and his search for the Golden Fleece. The discovery of gold in California and the Yukon in the 1800's drew thousands of prospectors to these regions in a great "Gold Rush" era of our nation's history. Possession of the bright yellow metal, gold, has been a mark of wealth for thousands of years. Historians apply the phrase "**Golden Age**" to the period when a nation reaches its highest peak of development. We now turn to those **golden things of the Christian Religion**.

Good morning friends, and welcome once again to the "Words of Life" gospel broadcast. We are coming to you live from this radio station. Today we shall talk about "The Golden Things of the Bible." But first, allow me once more to extend an invitation to you and your family to attend the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is located at the corner of College and North Streets. We meet at 9:30, 10:20 AM and 6:00 PM today and at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening.

The welcome mat is always out for you. Come with:

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Discussion

The Golden Book

The Bible is the golden book. The will of God is found in the Bible. Psalm 19:9,10 says:

“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

Again, Psalm 119:27 declares:

“Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.”

The Bible is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure to say nothing of it being a fountain of wisdom. It reveals the will of God, the state of man, and the way of salvation. It is light to direct us, food to support us, and comfort to cheer us. The inspired Word of God is **the book** above and beyond all other books as surely as the sun is above the clouds. It is the only book that accurately deals with the great questions of life: “Who am I?” “Where did I come from?” “Why am I here?” “Where am I going?”

The Bible answers all of these questions.

The Bible tells us who we are. The book of Genesis says we are men and women created by God and in His image (Genesis 2:7).

The Bible tells us that we came from God. We are a combination of dust and deity.

The Bible tells us that we are here for a purpose. That purpose is stated in Ecclesiastes 12:13:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

The Bible tells us where we are going depends on how we are living. Titus 2:11,12 says:

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

If we live for God, eternal bliss will be our destination and our destiny.

The Bible breaks the bonds of the enslaved, takes the heat out of life’s fierce fever, the pain out of parting, the sting out of death, and the gloom out of the grave.

It is indeed the Golden Book.

The Golden Chapter

1 Corinthians 13 is the golden chapter of the Bible, for it deals with the golden virtue of love — the greatest virtue. In this chapter, Paul shows the value of love by pointing out that spiritual gifts without love are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1,2). He shows that benevolence without love is nothing (13:3); that for the body to be burned, without love as the motivation, it amounts to nothing. The virtue of love is that:

“Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil: Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul contrasts love that never fails with the temporary miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit which were to pass away. In showing the victory of love, he concludes that there abides faith, hope and love — but love is the greatest of all things.

The Golden Verse

The golden verse of the New Testament is John 3:16. It says:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In these cherished words are concepts that have no end at all — we can only say of them, they melt into the far reaches of eternity.

The words of this golden text suggest the most profound and sublime themes ever known to man:

1. The first words introduce **the greatest Being** that we can ever know anything about — GOD. Hebrews 11:6 says of God:

“But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2. This verse (John 3:16) also mentions **the largest number of beings** to think about — the world; the entire world. Think of the total number of people to ever live, from Adam to when Christ comes back again — billions upon billions of souls! Like the beam of the cross of Christ, God’s love and provisions for salvation point both backward to the beginning and forward to the end of the ages.

3. This verse mentions **the greatest gift** of the ages — God’s only begotten Son.

4. This verse mentions **the greatest faith** possible.

5. This verse also mentions **the greatest possible human tragedy** — to perish. Many people today don’t believe in hell or else they think it has been air conditioned! But the Bible teaches that the wicked shall be cast into hell

— into fire unquenchable.

6. Finally, the text teaches the **greatest possible human blessedness — eternal life.**

The Golden Rule

The Golden Rule is found in Matthew 7:12:

“All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, even so do ye also unto them.”

This principle is a great capstone of human relations, the topmost peak of ethics in human relationships — the Mount Everest of all human relationships. Other ancient teachers and rabbis stated it in a negative form, but Jesus put it in its positive form.

The Lord taught that the essence of righteousness is the constructive doing of good, not just the negative avoidance of doing harm. Jesus’ principle deals with treating men with kindness. It is the kind of compassion and mercy shown by the Good Samaritan who helped the wounded man in Luke 10. The principle is that of rendering justice, mercy and love to all men as prescribed by law. The Emperor Severus inscribed the golden rule on his palace wall and highly respected its content. We should inscribe the golden rule on our hearts and practice it in our lives. It is the least that a Christian can do. I want just to note here, that the golden rule, as wonderful as it is, is not the highest rule you, as a child of God, can live by. The golden rule, as commonly stated says “Do unto others as you would have

them do unto you.” There is a rule **higher** than the golden rule — that’s right. Let us call the highest rule of all — the **diamond rule**. The diamond rule says, “Do unto others **even better** than you would have them do unto you.” The principle of the diamond rule is found in Romans 12:10 which says “*in honor preferring one another.*” Also in Philippians 2:3 we read “*let each esteem others better than themselves.*” Let us all try to live by the golden and the diamond rules.

The Golden Promise

The golden promise is found in Romans 8:28:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

The purpose of God for your life is **good**. To them that love God all things work together in God’s great purpose of good. Those who love God, that is, those who obey the gospel and live righteous lives, will have events worked out for their benefit in God’s care and providence. So let us not murmur nor complain about our circumstances and hardships. But like Joseph and Esther in the Old Testament, let us do what is right and let God use us freely in His great purposes. We cannot, with our finite minds, grasp God’s plan; in the last analysis, all we can do is humbly make the best of every circumstance that confronts us and pray God’s will to be done in all things.

We do not need to be very old in life to look back on life and see that things that we thought were disaster worked out to our good; things that we thought were disappointments worked out to greater blessings. We can look back, and we see a guiding and a directing hand in and through it all.

The Golden City

In describing the heavenly city, John wrote in Revelation 21:18 “*and the city was pure gold, like unto pure glass.*”

Revelation 21:21 says, “*the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*” Throughout history many historians and explorers have found the great cities of men full of fascination and importance. They write of Rome, Paris, London, New York, etc. My friends, the greatest city of all, and the one to which Christians work to inhabit, is the golden city of heaven, to at last be in the presence of God and walk down those streets of gold.

Conclusion

Christianity is truly the golden religion. It has the golden book, the golden chapter, the golden verse, the golden rule, the golden promise and the golden city.

Are you journeying toward the City of Gold? You can start your trip by repenting of your sins and being baptized for the remission of those sins.

Thanks for being with us today.

The Golden Text of the Old Testament

Introduction

Most Bible students are familiar with the Golden Text of the New Testament, John 3:16, but how many are familiar with the Golden Text of the Old Testament? To the prophet Micah it was given, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to state as no other ever did, the simple **majestic, unalterable essentials of true religion**. Please listen to this reading of Micah 6:8. It is called the Golden Text of the Old Testament.

*“Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before Him with burnt offerings with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? **He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**”*

Good morning to all. I trust all to be well with you today, my friends. It is good to have you tuned in today as we preach on the subject of the **golden Text of the Old**

Testament — Micah 6:8.

Before we proceed with that lesson, allow me again to invite you to attend the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is at the corner of College and North Streets. We meet this morning at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and at 6:00 PM and each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

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Discussion

The first of many great ideas that stand out in the great Old Testament text of Micah 6:8 is **what should be the paramount concern of every human being**. The most important human concern is not health, wealth or any such thing. Our foremost concern is for the soul. The matter of having peace with God should stand out and have preeminence over all other considerations. The question, “What does the Lord require of thee?” is the most important matter.

In the days of the prophet Micah, the people of the land were at a low ebb spiritually. As the lives of the people increased in corruption, they tried to hide the real spiritual condition with an outward show or display of worship and

devotion. God never accepts our worship and devotion if they are not connected with an earnest and sincere effort to live clean and upright lives.

“What doth the Lord require of thee?” There are different ways in which the requirements of God may be summed up. Jesus boiled it down to two commandments in Matthew 22. Solomon said it came down to *“fearing God and keeping His commandments”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13). In the New Testament Peter said what God required was to *“repent and be baptized . . .”* (Acts 2:38). Also, the same apostle said in Acts 3:19:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

A little more specifically, the Lord’s requirements for sinners in the New Testament age of Bible times can be stated in the words: **faith, repentance, confession, baptism and faithfulness.**

Micah gives a three-point statement on the Lord’s requirements: **to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.** One student of the scriptures said in regard to Micah 6:8: “This statement of Micah is universally recognized as one of the greatest passages of the Old Testament, stressing that worship and morality cannot be divorced from each other. They are two sides of the same coin.”

To Do Justly

The first of three things man must do in order to be well-pleasing to God is “do justly.” Notice that little word “do.” The Bible clearly teaches that there is something that is required on the part of man. The word “do” implies there is something for man to do.

To “*do justly*” means that which is fair, that which is right. Friends, there is such a thing as **right-doing**, and there is such a thing as **wrong-doing**. The Bible, through its commandments, examples and principles informs us as to which is which. To please the Lord, our lives must proceed in the direction of right-doing.

To Love Mercy

The second thing required is “*to love mercy.*” Mercy is that which is undeserved, unearned, unmerited favor. It is grace. God is a merciful God, as the prophet Micah preached. The Bible informs us that “*His mercy is toward those who fear Him and keep His commandments*” (Psalm 103:8-14). **As we do our best to shun the wrong and do the right, there will be a practice gap between our imperfection and the standard God desires us. That gap is taken care of by the mercy of God. We do our best and God will do the rest.**

Notice also that as we become more and more godly, we become more and more merciful toward others. One thing naturally follows another.

To Walk Humbly

The third thing God expects of us is that we walk humbly with Him. Note here that life is a journey to be walked. God does not mean for us to crawl — but to walk. The Lord does not want us to go slower than we are capable of going.

On the other hand, God does not intend for us to go faster (run) than is good for us. This life is one of “hurry up and wait.” When we hurry too much, we fail to appreciate a lot of what is good in life. When we go too fast, we are liable to burn out. Having a lot of enthusiasm is a great thing, but don’t use it up all at once; spread it out over a long time!

Life is a journey to be walked, but it is to **be walked with God**. The Bible says of men like Noah and Enoch, they “walked with God.” In the 1860’s, there was a reporter for “The Boston Herald” named Ed Weston. Mr. Weston earned the distinction of being the greatest pedestrian in the world. It is said that he walked over 100,000 miles in his lifetime. But, I want to say that the greatest pedestrian or walker in the world is the man or woman, older person or younger person, who decides to walk daily with God. My friends, to walk with God is the best exercise you will take. It will make your soul physically fit.

Conclusion

This Old Testament text also says a lot about the great-

ness of God. The Christian has been delivered by God from the bondage of sin. Romans 6:17,18 says:

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

In Romans 6:3,4 Paul wrote:

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

The truth of Psalm 60:12 is timeless. It says, *“Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.”* As Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, he wanted those brethren to know the things that had happened to him (the trials, tribulations, imprisonments and numerous misfortunes), though they had been intended to impede the progress of the gospel, had actually resulted in the furtherance of the gospel (Philippians 1:12).

The great song “Amazing Grace” says:

“Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.”

In Ephesians 1:3 we read that all spiritual blessings are “*in Christ.*” Psalm 84:11 says, “*No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.*”

We trust your greatest ambition and goal in life will be to **walk with God.**

Thanks for being with us today.

The Last Things in the Bible

Introduction

Thank you and good morning to all. This is the “Words of Life” gospel broadcast, and we are coming to you live from this radio station. I hope and trust all is well with you today.

On the broadcast this morning, I am going to take an unusual and different approach to this Bible lesson. Unusual and different it is, but also effective and interesting.

We are going to study this morning some of “The Last Things in the Bible.” We are going to **begin** and **end** in **the very last chapter of the very last book in the Bible** — Revelation 22. Revelation 22 tells **of the last things done in the Bible**, and this morning’s time will be spent considering the various last things of the Bible.

But first, however, allow me to invite you to the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is on the corner of College and North Streets. We meet at 9:30 and 10:20 AM and 6:00 PM and each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

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A song in your heart.

Discussion

The Bible's Last Picture of Jesus

The **first** of the **last** things we will talk about this morning is the Bible's **last** picture of Jesus. When we read the final verses of the book of Revelation, the New Testament is drawing to a close. All the apostles, except John, are dead. John has written the life of Christ, and the three short epistles of 1, 2, and 3 John; now he comes to his last book and the last book of the Bible. Revelation is God's final word — His last production. When John completes this book, divine revelation will cease. Surely the last of final things God says to us will be emphatic and important things.

Throughout the book of Revelation, Jesus is pictured in dramatic ways. The Lord is pictured as:

the faithful witness	(Revelation 1:5; 3:14)
the first begotten of the dead	(Revelation 1:5)
the One who loved us and washed us from our sins	(Revelation 1:5)
the Alpha and Omega	(Revelation 1:11)
the Son of Man	(Revelation 1:13)
the One who lives forever more	(Revelation 1:18)

the One who walks amidst of
the churches (Revelation 2,3).

These are just a few of the many pictures of the Savior in just the first three chapters of Revelation alone. The rest of the book divulges many, many more. But after all those different depictions, what will be that last picture of Jesus?

The last, final picture of Jesus in Revelation is in 22:16 — a two fold picture. First, the root and offspring of David, and secondly, the bright and morning star.

As the offspring of David, Jesus was the appointed Messiah (David's Greater Son). This meant Christ would come and rule upon the throne of David as the fulfillment of prophecy.

In Isaiah 9:6 prophecy said:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.”

Prophecy said David would have a ruler on his throne. David's own reign flourished like a bountiful tree, but after Solomon's death it appeared that the tree was cut down.

Then from the trunk a shoot sprang from the roots and that shoot began a great tree all its own. That was Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ sits and rules today on the throne of David.

The Bible's last picture of Jesus is that of the Eternal Ruler who came through the lineage of David in fulfillment of prophecy.

The Bright and Morning Star indicates Christ would be the one to outshine all others — His brilliance would be incomparable.

Jesus is truly the Alpha and Omega, first and last, and all-in-between.

The Bible's Last Invitation

The very last invitation of the Bible is to *“him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely”* (Revelation 22:17).

Ponce de Leon searched for the fountain of youth by whose waters he hoped to keep his youth and never die. Instead of finding that fountain, he found Florida! There is a fountain all right, but it is not of this world. This old world has no fountain of youth to give to anyone. Men lose their youth, grow old and die. This earth simply has no water of life.

The water of life in scripture is from the well of eternal salvation and men indeed need it most. Yes, men need other

things, but not as badly as they need eternal life.

The Bible's last invitation is to those who are thirsty: "*Let him that is athirst come.*" Deep within each and every one of us there is a deep-seated need for Christ. Only the water of life can quench such a parched thirst.

This last invitation is universal; it is to "*whosoever will.*" Jesus said in John 6:37:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Whether you are white, red, black, brown or polka dotted, the water of life is for you. To **all people: rich people, poor people, popular people, unpopular people, decent people, indecent people.** The gospel is for **all people.**

The last invitation of the Bible just simply cannot be improved upon.

The Bible's Last Warning

The last warning of the Bible is found in Revelation 22:18,19:

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things

which are written in this book.”

The Bible contains many warnings: Luke 13:3,5. 1 Corinthians 10:12. Hebrews 2:3.

The Bible recognizes man has a constant need of warnings — for man is so often a victim of sin. The last warning given to man is about the danger of perverting or tampering with the Word of God. It is a warning about mutilating the Bible or tampering with any portion of the Word of God. 1 Peter 4:11 says:

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

Severe penalties are attached to the wrong of violating God’s Word by adding or subtracting. This warning cannot be missed. How could God be any clearer on the subject?

Friends, we must understand, in view of the Bible’s last warning that **doctrine makes a difference. False teachings should be treated as a deadly poison. What you believe does matter; does make a difference — if not, this warning would not be in the Bible.**

The first sin that entered the world was a result of false teaching; the last warning of the Bible is a warning about false teaching. Only the Day of Judgment will reveal how many have erred from the truth knowingly and unknowing-

ly.

The Bible's Last Promise

The Bible's last promise is from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself: *“He which testifieth these things saith, surely, I come quickly”* (Revelation 22:20).

There are many today who do not believe this promise. The atheist doesn't; the agnostic doesn't; the modernist doesn't; and many who go to church every Sunday do not! Yet, the fact of the Lord's coming again is plainly set forth. You know, a few weeks ago if you had asked most anyone in town, “Is Santa Claus coming to see you?” — just about everyone would have said “Oh, yes. He certainly is.” Ask people, “Is Jesus Christ coming again?”, and the answer very well may be a stumbling, “Well, er . . . I don't know.”

Friends, “He is coming!” Ready or not, believe it or not — He is coming! **If you believe in the Bible, the matter is settled for you.** Acts1:11 says:

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

This great promise is the crown jewel of all other promises. The promises of forgiveness, answered prayers, daily guidance, provision and care would mean precious little if the Lord is not to return one day.

God, it seems, has saved the best for last. We should praise Him for the hope of its fulfillment.

John prayed, "*Even so come Lord Jesus.*" So we say.

Conclusion

For the sake of our souls and eternity, let us make sure we are aware of these last things in the Bible.

Are you a child of the King? Why not obey God's will by faith, repentance, confession and being baptized for the remission of your sins? Why not today?

Thanks for being with us.

Gambling: The Wheel of Misfortune

Introduction

An estimated 57% of Americans gamble regularly. NBC news reported a few years ago that “gambling is the biggest business in the nation, bigger than the ten (10) largest corporations, including U.S. Steel and General Motors.”

Millions today are seeking excitement and thrills through the allure of gambling. From bingo to blackjack; from roulette to horse racing; from state lotteries to selling chances on a lawn mower; gambling is viewed by many as a way to fulfill all their dreams by riding on the wheel of fortune. But is gambling really the wheel of fortune or the **wheel of misfortune?**

Good morning. We trust all to be well with you.

Are you planning to attend worship services today? May I invite you to visit with the Mountain Home Church of Christ? Our church building is located at the corner of College and North Streets in Mountain Home.

You are invited to come with:

A Bible in your hand

A friend by your side

A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Discussion

My friends, in the most recent **Reader's Digest** (April, 1996), there appears an article that truly gives, in the language of Paul Harvey, "the rest of the story." The article reveals that gambling, for all of its defenders, is not the wheel of **fortune**, but the wheel of **misfortune!**

The article is called "*Gambling's Toll in Minnesota*" and the sub-title reads, "*When a State Legalizes Gambling, Everybody Pays.*" Here is more of what the article says:

"America is becoming a nation of gamblers. Once confined to Atlantic City, Las Vegas and Reno, gambling is now legal in 48 states — all but Hawaii and Utah — and casinos run full tilt in 24. Almost 100 million Americans bet \$400 billion last year and lost \$39 billion to the house.

"To win legal status, the industry promised some tax poor states a river of money for public programs. But along with the wealth came an alarming rise in suicides, bankruptcies and crime. Here is the experience of one state, where the first full-service casino was welcomed in 1988."

The article goes on to detail Minnesota's misery with gambling:

“In less than a decade, legalized gambling in Minnesota — \$4.1 billion is legally wagered in the state each year — has created a new class of addicts, victims and criminals whose activities are devastating families. Even conservative estimates of the social toll suggest that problem gambling costs Minnesotans more than \$200 million per year in taxes, lost income, bad debts and crime.

“Ten years ago only one Gamblers Anonymous group was meeting in the state; today there are 53 groups. According to research by the Center for Addiction studies at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, nearly 38,000 Minnesota adults are probable pathological gamblers. A 1994 Star Tribune/WCCO TV poll found that 128,000 adults in Minnesota — four percent — showed signs associated with problem gambling and gambling addiction.

The example of Jeff Copeland is given:

“Jeff Copeland, a 21-year-old from suburban Minneapolis, can’t go to college because he’s accumulated a \$20,000 gambling debt. “It ruins your life”, he says. “And people don’t really understand. I thought about suicide. It’s the easiest way to get out of it.”

The police burden is now greater in Minnesota:

“Between 1988 — when the first of Minnesota’s 17 casinos began operating — and 1994, counties with casinos saw the crime rate rise twice as fast as those without casinos. The increase was the greatest for crimes linked to gambling, such as fraud, theft and forgery/counterfeiting.

The taxpayers tab is also noted:

“Taxpayer Tab. The list of violent gambling-related crimes is also growing. Redwood Falls police officer Derek Woodford was shot by a gambler from Gary, Ind., who had broken into a local bank after a day of gambling at Jackpot Junction in Morton. Woodford spent 13 days in the hospital recovering from 3 bullet wounds.

“Gambling has long been recognized, as well, as a root cause of embezzlement. In most gambling-related embezzlement cases, authorities say, the court file shows the same thing: no previous criminal record.”

The cost in terms of hidden suicides is entered into the picture as well:

“Other deaths that may be related to depression over gambling losses are not listed as suicides at all. “So often, when people talk about suicide, they say, ‘I’d just drive off the road. I’d drive into a tree,’” says Sandi Brustuen of the Vanguard Compulsive

Treatment Program in Granite Falls, Minn. “They don’t want anyone to know they committed suicide, and they want the families to collect the insurance.”

“The suicide rate among pathological gamblers nationally is believed to rival that of drug addicts. Ten to 20 percent of pathological gamblers have attempted suicide, and almost 90 percent have contemplated it.”

The article concludes by correctly pointing out:

“Few of these problems have been documented as communities and states across the nation instead focus on gambling as a way to boost their economies and increase tax revenues. But for Minnesota the social costs of gambling are emerging in vivid and tragic detail.”

The observation made, in Minnesota and elsewhere, is that the gambling concept that was supposed to yield a financial bonanza for states and good, clean, harmless fun for players, has not worked as planned!!

My friends, **gambling does not work financially nor socially, and it does not work spiritually!!!** It is a **social detriment, a financial failure, and a spiritual catastrophe.**

Let me concentrate, for the remainder of this broadcast, on the spiritual problems involved with the gambling craze.

Someone may try and defend gambling by saying, “What’s wrong with it? Isn’t life itself a gamble?” There is a difference in a necessary risk and an unnecessary one.

In gambling you are talking about created risks with wagers and stakes. We are not referring to the risks a farmer incurs growing his crops. Floods, pests and droughts are not created risks — they are a part of the nature of things as long as the world stands. A farmer’s situation of engaging in productive labor does not involve prospering at the expense of others. A gambler’s situation does involve prospering at the expense (hurt) to others.

Gambling is not the same as an insurance company using the premiums of the insured as an investment, receiving returns with profit — in turn giving the insured protection and security.

In like manner investing in stocks and bonds in the stock market is a legitimate practice with reasonable hope of productive results in goods and services.

Gambling is different. **Gambling exists being based on the sole hope of obtaining something for nothing, with no possibility of producing anything good. In a circumstance where so few win and so many lose just cannot be sensible.**

Someone else objects by saying, “But gambling is not in the Bible!” That’s true! But white slavery, rape, suicide, bootlegging nor embezzlement are mentioned by name

either! The point is, all of these are condemned, in principle, by what the Bible teaches.

Gambling is a spiritual catastrophe — a wheel of misfortune — because:

1. It encourages the wrong attitude. It destroys the incentive to work and to be a productive member of society. George Barnard Shaw stated, “. . . a citizen who is neither producing goods nor performing services is in effect a beggar or a thief . . . Gambling, or the attempt to get money without earning it, is a vice which is economically (that is, fundamentally) ruinous.”

The Bible says we are to work:

“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread” (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

Any attitude that promotes “get-rich-quick” -ism is wrong.

2. Gambling is a form of covetousness. Colossians 3:5 says that covetousness is idolatry. The term “easy money” is nothing but an euphemism for **greed**. And greed is nothing but a form of idolatry.

3. **Gambling violates the second greatest commandment:** *“thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* (Matthew 22:37-39). You cannot honor that commandment and take your neighbor’s possessions at the turn of a card or the roll of the dice.

4. **Gambling violates the Golden Rule of Matthew 7:12.** What if he agrees to it? But two men may agree to a dueling contest, yet would that make it right? An agreement doesn’t alter the fact that you are doing to him something you wouldn’t want him to do to you. Just an agreement to gamble doesn’t change the fact that it violates the Golden Rule.

5. **Gambling is a sin against the family.** The bad habit of gambling robs the family of the finances necessary to its support.

1 Timothy 5:8 says:

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

This is not to say that the morality of gambling is a matter of “affording it,” but as the Reader’s Digest article points out:

“Gambling has significant social and economic impact. It results in ruined lives, families and businesses; in bankruptcies and bad loans; in suicides, embezzlements and other crimes committed to feed

or cover up gambling habits — and increases in costs to taxpayers for investigating, prosecuting and punishing those crimes.”

Conclusion

Gambling is everywhere. Those who advocate it promise that it is the answer to many problems. But, in reality, social woes result, financial difficulties emerge and the cost in spiritual and monetary terms is tremendous. Gambling — we don't need it! Financially and, more importantly, spiritually, gambling robs us of what we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for allowing us to make another radio visit with you.

Are We Singing or Sinning?

Introduction

A few years ago a letter appeared in the “Dear Abby” column of newspapers nationwide saying:

“DEAR ABBY: A reader in St. Augustine, Fla., said he quit going to church because the organist played too loudly. Well, I’ve been an organist since 1934, and the problem is probably not the organist, but the organ. Over the years, churches replace worn-out organs or parts of several organs, and the resulting sounds are disastrous!”

Dear Abby responded with a letter from another reader of her column which said:

“DEAR ABBY: This is for the St. Augustine reader who quit attending church because of the organ music: I, too, had the same problem, but I asked God to show me the way, and He pointed me toward the Church of Christ.

“The Church of Christ doesn’t believe in instrumental music, and believe me, it is heavenly to go to church and not have to hear all that loud instrumental music. For true salvation in a quiet and spiritual atmosphere, try the Church of Christ.”

Such an exchange of sentiments may be an echo from

much earlier times; back in the days when mechanical instruments of music were first introduced into the worship of God. How do you feel about mechanical instruments in worship of God? More importantly, what does the Bible teach on the subject?

Good morning to all! Welcome to the “Words of Life” gospel broadcast. We are glad to be able to make another radio visit with you today. Our Bible study this morning covers the subject of mechanical instruments of music in worship services.

Before we get into that lesson however, allow me to extend to you and your family a personal invitation to attend the worship services of the Mountain Home Church of Christ. Our church building is located at the corner of College and North Streets.

Come with:

A Bible in your hand
A friend by your side
A smile on your face
A song in your heart.

Discussion

Isn't singing songs in worship to God a blessed experience? Few things lift our spirits more than singing the great hymns of the church. It is common in the religious world today to find organs and various mechanical instruments of music (even brass bands and rock bands) being used in the

various worship services of hundreds of denominations. To raise the question of the propriety of such, would be considered “nit-picking” and petty to the minds of those who assume an air of spiritual superiority. Nonetheless, we ask the question, “Is it right (scriptural) to use mechanical instruments when worshipping the Lord?”

As with many things in life, it is not so simple a matter to decide as it might seem at first. Keep an open mind as we explore the matter in the light of what the Bible says.

Music Mentioned Nine Times

Music in worship to God is mentioned nine times in the New Testament. And we find in each and every one of those nine passages, God specifies the kind of music He desires — it is always **singing!**

Let us notice these passages so you can know for yourself exactly what God has said in His Word:

1. Matthew 26:30

“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”

2. Acts 16:25

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”

3. Romans 15:9

“And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his

mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles and sing unto thy name.”

4. 1 Corinthians 14:15

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding, also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

5. Ephesians 5:19

“Speaking to your selves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

6. 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.”

7. Hebrews 2:12

“Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”

8. Hebrews 13:15

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

9. James 5:13

“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”

Notice again each passage commands **singing, vocal music!** What kind of music should we then be using in our worship?

Remember it is not a question of what you or I might prefer, or what we think sounds good. Acceptable worship to God is always God-pleasing; first and foremost it must be what God wants, not what we want.

Worship is defined as “an act of homage to God” or “to make obeisance to God.” Worship is not **manward** but **Godward**.

In John 4:24 Jesus stated:

“God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

In this simple and pivotal statement the essence of worship is set forth. **It’s not enough to worship, our worship must be true worship!** It’s not a **matter of our choice**, but rather **a matter of God’s commands**. To worship “in truth” means the manner in which God has instructed in His Word.

What Others Have Said

Many in the modern denominational world are not aware of what great religious leaders of the past really

thought about the use of mechanical instruments in worship. Let me read to you some statements:

Martin Luther: “The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal.”

John Calvin: “It is no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of tapers, or revival of the other shadows of the law. The Roman Catholics borrowed it from the Jews.”

Adam Clark: “I am an old man and an old minister, and I here declare that I have never know instrumental music to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that it has been productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of that Infinite Spirit who requires His followers to worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

Charles H. Spurgeon: When asked why he did not use the organ in worship he gave 1 Corinthians 14:15 as his answer: “*I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also,*” and remarked, “I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery.”

John Wesley: “I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither seen nor heard.”

Friends, these quotations are given, not because we believe that men (leaders) can determine what is right or wrong, regardless of what God says; but just to let you know what many of the founders and leaders of the largest denominations in the world today thought on the subject of the kind of music to be used when men give praise to God.

In addition to the above, Bible scholars such as Alexander Campbell and J. W. McGarvey added to the weight of their voices.

Alexander Campbell: “To all whose animal nature flags under the oppression of church services, I should think instrumental music would not only be a desideratum but an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But to all spiritually minded Christians such aids would be as a cowbell in a concert.”

J. W. McGarvey: “We cannot adopt the practices without abandoning the only ground upon which a restoration of New Testament Christianity can be accomplished.”

Old-Testament Usage

Sometimes someone will ask, “But didn’t God allow instruments under the Old Testament?” In response to that,

we point out that Old Testament worship was physical in nature, i.e., physical incense, sacrifice, etc. However, the New Testament, God's Law for us today, is a spiritual covenant. Mechanical instruments of music would be out of place in this new and better law. Notice, under the New Testament, God has given instruments for us to use. The instrument of God's selection is the human heart (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). No earthly device could ever produce more beautiful music than the human heart. In worship, use your God-made instrument of music; do not settle for a man-made artificial stimulant.

The Book of Revelation

Another may raise an objection that goes like this, "But mechanical instruments (harps) are mentioned as being in heaven, in the book of Revelation."

It is true that Revelation 5:8; 14:2 and 15:2 mention harps. But, should not it be recognized that these references are the language of symbolism and imagery and take place in heaven, not on earth? Moreover, even if the argument were granted, harps are seldom used in churches today. And notice carefully that Revelation 14:2 indicates not literal harps at all, but the **voice** of worshippers would be "*as the voice of harpers harping with their harps.*" The New Testament teaches that our worship to God on earth is by offering "*the fruit of our lips*" (Hebrews 13:15). "*The fruit of our lips,*" **not our fingertips!**

Conclusion

Listening friends, God is concerned that the heart of each worshipper be true to Him in **singing** praise to His name. Let us, as worshippers of God, be equally concerned that we do all things that would please Him.

Please Him and not ourselves. And let us never consider anything a small thing if the truth of God is at stake.

Thank you for tuning in today.

And good day.

Dillon's Sermons:

"A good man out of the treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things . . ." (Matthew 12:35). This was the first thought that came to me as I began reading the precious truths in this book of sermons by Bill Dillon.

Bill Dillon has given us a rich store house of wisdom and truth in these sermons. He is a close student of the Bible. He also is a reader of other men's work and remembers what he reads. His contribution here is a harvesting of many worthy thoughts of wise fathers of past times, wed to his own perceptions of holy truth. He unselfishly shares his knowledge mined from many sources with those who read these sermons. A fluent speaker from his pulpit, his sermons move with beauty and grace. So also do his written sermons. They speak with an eloquence that absorbs the mind, holding it captive for its rich thoughts and reflections.

It has been my pleasure to know brother Dillon and his family for many years. My personal delight is to realize he has developed his talents and used them in such worthy service to our Lord. May the good God of heaven and earth bless him in His service, and may He bless all those who read these sermons. They will enrich their lives as they read and live the truths in these lessons.

It is my pleasure to recommend these sermons to any who love the truth as it is in Jesus.

Best Wishes,
Max Miller