



June 25, 2006 (Vol. 6)

TRUTH - The Way God Sees It (7)

by Douglas W. Hill
member of North Sparta church of Christ

Jesus was an evangelizer. He walked back and forth through the land of Canaan preaching the gospel to anyone who would listen. He did this publicly (Mt. 4:23) and with individuals (John 4). He sent disciples out to preach in the limited commission (Mt. 10) and again in the great commission (Mt. 28:19-20). The rulers of the Jews tried to stop the disciples from teaching (Acts 4:17; 5:28, 40). They even put Stephen to death for it (Acts 7:59). From this arose a persecution that scattered the first church - but they went everywhere teaching (Acts 8:1, 4).

It is evident that Christ and those who follow Him are open to discussing and studying the Bible. Yet, did you know that the most common reason people say they don't want to study today is: "I already go to _____ church". People use the different brands and flavors of Christianity as the reason why they do **not** study! How can this be? Can you see Christ refusing to talk with someone about the Scriptures? Can you see Him saying, I am a member of this Jewish denomination, therefore I am not interested or do not need to study with you? Certainly not! Jesus was a member of no Jewish subgroup - and He was constantly speaking with Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, etc. In John 4, He even talked with a Samaritan woman - one who was different from Him in gender, social status, religion, race and nationality. How much more clear need it be made?

Friends, the question is this: If we claim to follow Christ, but refuse to discuss the Bible with people - are we really following Christ? Can we truly consider ourselves Christians if we are not imitating Him and conforming ourselves to His image (Rom. 8:29)?

The previous articles in this series briefly addressed issues like church names, instrumental

music, baptism, etc. While we all have different views on these items - can we not sit down and discuss what the Book says? Jesus also prayed for the "oneness" or unity of all disciples (John 17). He said this was to be a unity like He and the Father had (17:21). Do you think the Father and Son differ in their doctrines and practices? No, certainly not. Thus proper unity today is to be based upon Truth (John 17:17), not the "Unity in Diversity" so often promoted today. Besides, "Unity in Diversity" is just an agreement to be divided and **not** discuss differences.

Friends, if we close our minds to discussion, we **will** find ourselves in error on the day of Judgment. Christians are commanded: "but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being **ready always** to give answer to **every** man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear:" (1 Pet. 3:15). We set Christ as Lord in our hearts, when we are willing to talk with others in a humble way. But if we refuse, then we are in disobedience and reject Christ's as Lord.

May each one of us see the importance, benefits and the blessings of open discussion. It tests our knowledge, our honesty, our humility, our love for Truth and for others. Friends, are you letting your light shine? Or are you hiding it under a bushel (Mt. 5:15)? If you are interested in open Bible study, then we invite you contact us anytime at (931) 836-3321 or NSCOC@Frontiernet.net.

PUBLIC CORRECTIONS

When Johnny is sitting at his desk at school and writes with his pencil "2 plus 2 equals 5", the teacher may look over his shoulder and privately call attention to his error. Johnny can almost unnoticed take his eraser and rub out the mistake. The class may never know that Johnny mis-added 2 plus 2.

But if Johnny writes "2 plus 2 equals 5" on the chalk board, and all the class is watching, the teacher does not really correct the error if she says nothing to the class, pats Johnny approvingly on the head, and then later takes him aside and explains his mistake privately. Nor can Johnny, upon discovering the error himself, sit and correct privately at his desk with a pencil eraser the mistake he made publicly at the chalk board. "Two plus two is four, Johnny", says the teacher before the whole class, and the mistake that was made at the chalk board is corrected at the chalk board.

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed... when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto

Peter before them all..." (Gal. 2:11-14), "Them that sin rebuke before all..." (1 Tim. 5:20).

Private sins and personal differences are properly to be corrected privately. Nothing is gained by publicity. But public error is properly to be corrected publicly. Remember, the mistake that is made at the chalk board before the whole class is not fully corrected with a pencil eraser at the desk after school.

(Borrowed verbatim from a 1973 Bulletin)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Business Meeting** – Sun. June 25 @ 5pm.
- **Door to Door** - every Tuesday at 6pm.
- **Men’s & Ladies Classes** - Tues, July 11 @ 7 pm.
- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., July 8 & 22.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Jeff Smith, April 15-20, 2007.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Randall McPherson, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **Gospel Meeting** - TBA April 2007.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner’s niece), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox’s son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher’s mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Doris Williams, Wayne Williams** (Doris’ son), **Horace Jones** (Doris William’s brother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England’s niece), **Robert England** (at home again), **Ocia Bell-Jones & Charlie Jones** (Mother & brother to Doris Williams); **Sheila Eller & Laken Eller, Pauline Hickey, Nancy Witaker.**

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher’s brother), **Cary Matheny.**

2006 July	SUNDAY-MORNING	7/2/06	7/9/06	7/16/06	7/23/06	7/30/06
	Greeter	Mark Eller	Michael Fletcher	Mark Eller	Ralph Sims	Ralph Sims
	Announcements	Jared Gwin	Matt Eller	Michael Fletcher	Matt Eller	Anthony Rece
	Reading	Anthony Rece	Ben Trute	Micah Eller	Jack Stafford	Matt Eller
	Song Leader	Ps 133	Ps 134	Ps 135	Ps 136	Ps 137
	Opening Prayer	Thom Steger	Adam Featherston	Mark Welte	Thom Steger	Harold Frazier
	Lord's Supper Lead	Adam Featherston	Sam Gardner	Kevin Blankenship	David Price	Thom Steger
	Lord's Supper Assist	Michael Fletcher	Anthony Rece	Jared Gwin	Kevin Blankenship	David Price
	Lord's Supper Assist	Ralph Sims	Ralph Sims	Mike Tenpenny	Ben Trute	Mike Tenpenny
	Lord's Supper Assist	Micah Eller	Mike Tenpenny	Ben Trute	Josh Poteet	Jake Hale
	Lord's Supper Assist	Chad Sims	Jake Hale	Josh Poteet	Jake Hale	Chad Sims
	Closing Prayer	Harold Frazier	Josh Poteet	Jack Stafford	Micah Eller	Jack Stafford
	SUNDAY-EVENING	7/2/06	7/9/06	7/16/06	7/23/06	7/30/06
	Opening Prayer	Sam Gardner	Jared Gwin	Thom Steger	Mark Welte	Mark Eller
Song Leader	Mark Welte	Harold Frazier	David Price	Chad Sims		
Closing Prayer	David Price	Matt Eller	Wesly Geer	Jerry Taylor	Micah Eller	
Lord's Supper Lead	Kevin Blankenship	David Price	Harold Frazier	Anthony Rece	Michael Fletcher	
Speaker / Invitation	Mark Welte	Mark Welte			Doug Hill	
Group	1	2	3	4	4	
WEDNESDAY-EVENING	7/5/06	7/12/06	7/19/06	7/26/06		
Opening Prayer	Kevin Blankenship	Sam Gardner	Mark Eller	Adam Featherston		
Song Leader	Thom Steger	Chad Sims	Doug Hill	Sam Gardner		
Closing Prayer	Jerry Taylor	Doug Hill	Jerry Taylor	Jack Stafford		
Invitation	Doug Hill	Thom Steger	Adam Featherston	Jared Gwin		

North Sparta church of Christ

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