

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

November 25, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Scriptural Reasons for Preaching the Word

Thomas H. Holland

(This is the first in a series of excerpts from the chapter of the same name from Brother Holland’s book *Sermon Design and Delivery*; Scriptures referenced from the ASV)

(1) The Word should be preached because wisdom for salvation comes from the Word. The apostle Paul wrote, “... And that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (II Timothy 3:15.) Salvation means that man is saved from the power and effects of sin. Thayer uses as synonyms the words “deliverance, preservation, safety.” There are two important aspects of salvation: one, salvation or deliverance from the power and effects of sin can be the Christian’s blessing now, in this life. When a believer repents of sin in his life and then is immersed for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), sins of the past are pardoned by God on the basis of the price having been paid by Christ. (Romans 3:23-26). Sin no longer dominates or enslaves the individual. (Romans 6:4-12). The second aspect of salvation is the fact that there is an eternal salvation which is to be revealed when Jesus comes again. Salvation, either present, or future, is dependent upon a knowledge of and obedience to the Word of God. God would have all men to be saved, and come unto a knowledge of the truth. (I Timothy 2:4).

James wrote, “Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21). For three reasons, God’s Word is able to save the souls of men. First, it reveals to man that he is a sinner who is lost and in need of deliverance from the power and effects of sin. (Romans 3:23; I John 1:7-9). Second, the Word reveals what God in mercy has done, what Jesus in love has done, and what the Holy Spirit invites men to do that they might be saved. Third, the Bible makes known what men must do in order to be saved by the mercy and grace of God.

Therefore, if preachers believe that sin defiles and damns and destroys the souls of men and if they believe that the Word of God is able to save the souls of men, they will boldly and plainly preach that saving Word. (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 11/18/18

Contribution – \$2290

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship* – 62

Wednesday Night – 28

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Envy, strife, and divisions (1 Cor. 3:3).

Q: Who did Paul send to bring the Corinthians back to remembrance of his ways which were in Christ?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - The Church — The Beauty of Christ

- 1) How can you let Christ’s beauty shine through you?
- 2) What does it mean when Gal. 2:20 says, “Christ liveth in me?”

PM - A Closer Look at 1 & 2 Kings

- 1) What is the theme of these two books?
- 2) What is the great tragedy of Solomon’s life?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconofcfc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
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Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers (will be taking radiation treatments over the next several weeks) — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Today in between services (Soups, Salads, and Sandwiches)
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

B. C. Goodpasture said, “If men are not converted by the word of God, their so-called conversion is a farce. Knowing the fear of the Lord, it is proper to persuade men. But let’s always seek to move men by gospel preaching rather than by crass sensationalism.”

(2) The Word should be preached because all the needs of men are supplied by the Scriptures. The passage under consideration (II Timothy 3:15-4:5) lists four things (in verse 16, 17) supplied by the Scriptures. One, the doctrine necessary to draw one to God is furnished by the sacred writings. Christ outlined this drawing process in the gospel according to John. One cannot come to Christ unless he is drawn by God. God draws men to Christ as they are taught.... Of course, the basic implication is that men need to come to Christ. (John 6:44, 45). Two, men are not exclusively the products of heredity and environment. Men are what they are taught by precept and example. The prophet said, “It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23). If men are taught and believe error they will not faithfully serve God. Three, the Scriptures furnish the pointed information about men and sin that brings to man’s heart conviction of sin. Conviction of sin always precedes conversion to Christ. Men must be confronted with the reality of sin in their lives. Four, some would pervert the love of God to the extent of a misconception of that love. Indeed, God loved and loves the world. However, in that popular passage, John 3:16, the love of God is painted on a background of human sinfulness and helpfulness.

Men may classify sin as social maladjustment or environmental blight. The sinner may be underprivileged, overprivileged, maladjusted, *ad nauseum*. However, sin in man is a fact. (**So, no excuses! TCG**). Newspapers declare it, television news programs testify to it and radio programs publicize the fact that men are sinners. These media do not use the general word “sin”, but they give the particulars — murders, robbery, rape, hate, greed, lust, and pride.

The all-wise God, who made man and knows man’s heart and actions, has very plainly appraised: all have sinned. (Romans 3:23).

(To be continued next week).

Counter-Culture

Chase Green

Have you ever seen on television a documentary about certain cultures (such as in Africa or South America) where it is perfectly acceptable to walk around in the nude? Sadly, there are still places in this world who are not aware of the sin of nakedness. Even more sad is the fact that there are some who excuse this sin away on account of ignorance. While it is true that these cultures are evidently ignorant of the sin, sin is still sin, and all unrepented sins will be punished.

What needs to happen is that these cultures need to be taught the Gospel. Rather than excusing away this sin, among others, we need to send missionaries to teach these people that they are lost, and that they need Jesus, and that they need to reform their lives around His teachings, including repenting of their nakedness. You see, culture does not decide right and wrong, God’s Word does. Romans 12:2 tells us that we are to **not be conformed** to this world, but rather to be **TRANSFORMED**. Christians must transform the culture, not the other way around!

Now let’s switch gears for a moment and talk about ourselves. Are there sins that our culture accepts as perfectly fine, even though God speaks out against it? I would call to your attention the very same sin of nakedness. While it is true (thankfully) that our culture does not accept nakedness in its most complete form like the aforementioned cultures, our culture does in fact still accept nakedness. Make no mistake about it, partial nudity is still nudity all the same!

You see, most women would prefer not to go out in public in their underwear; yet, call it a “bathing suit,” and all of the sudden it is acceptable to many of those same women. Men also are comfortable with showing parts of their bodies that they ought not show when wearing bathing suits. Still, other forms of clothing (or really, LACK thereof) do not provide adequate covering of our bodies — short skirts and shorts, tank tops, muscle shirts, yoga pants, and even some blue jeans either do not cover what is supposed to be covered, or are much too tight on the skin, or both.

When Adam and Eve realized that they were naked in the garden, they tried to cover themselves by sewing fig leaves together (Gen. 3:7). But God was not pleased with the amount of covering they had done, for He made them coats of animal skins to cover them more adequately (Gen. 3:21). This ought to tell us something about the importance of covering our nakedness.

Nakedness is just one of many sins that culture has convinced people to take lightly. We could have mentioned many more. A few that come to my mind are homosexuality, females leading over men (both in the home and in the church), alcohol and other drugs, dancing, and promiscuity. All of these things will lead us down the path to hell, and we dare not let culture convince us otherwise!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

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

Acts 2:41

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