

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

December 16, 2018

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

It Was Not What They Thought Sam Willcut

Solomon said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). Many live their lives oblivious to the result. Paul said, “What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death” (Rom. 6:21). Yet, some are living their lives thinking something completely different from what God intends. The prophet Jeremiah said, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). The choice before all is either to walk by faith or to walk by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). The danger for countless millions is that they think one thing, but later come to find out that it was not what they thought. Let me offer a few biblical illustrations.

Naaman thought, but it was not what he thought. In Second Kings 5, he wanted to be cured of his leprosy. He traveled from Syria to Israel to the doorstep of the prophet Elisha. Yet, when one of Elisha’s messengers sent simple instructions to immerse in the Jordan River seven times to be cured, he “was wroth.” He angrily went away “and said, ‘Behold, I thought...’” (2 Kings 5:11). Sure, he thought Elisha would come out instead of sending a messenger. He thought Elisha would stand and flamboyantly “call on the name of the Lord his God.” He thought Elisha would extravagantly strike or wave “his hand over the place,” and then he would be cured. He thought, but it was not what he thought!

Simon thought, but it was not what he thought. The former sorcerer/fraud was truly converted by the preaching of Philip along with the other Samaritans, because he “himself believed also: and when he was baptized....” No doubt, he “wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done” (Acts 8:13). Yet, when Peter and John came to lay hands on these new Christians to receive the Holy Ghost, Simon, seeing this taking place, offered them money to purchase this same (cntd. on pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 12/9/18

Contribution – \$2255

Attendance:

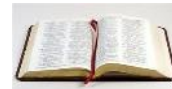
Sunday Bible Classes – 35

Sunday Worship – 48*

Wednesday Night – 37

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: No, Paul was not married (1 Cor. 7:7).

Q: Is it a sin to wound the conscience of another brother or sister?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - Power in the Blood

- 1) Where is the life of the flesh?
- 2) What is God’s power to save?

PM - Righteousness & Wrath

- 1) Does God’s righteousness exclude the possibly of God’s wrath (Rom. 1:17-18)?
- 2) If not, then why do many people believe that God’s love will save them in spite of their disobedience?

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

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marion Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

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 (recovering from back surgery) — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers (will be taking radiation treatments over the next several weeks) — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lacey & Ryan Smith, as the birth of their baby (Parker Ryan) is drawing near — Lindy Brown (has been undergoing physical therapy for her neck) — Kaitlyn Wilson (had a seizure and is at GRMC)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every 4th Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted
- 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)

ability. He thought that he could purchase the gift of God with money, but it was not what he thought. He thought he was beginning his life as a new creation in the right way, but it was not what he thought. In other words, once again, he thought, but it was not what he thought.

By means of application today, many think that the church of Christ is a denomination, but it is not what they thought. Christ built just one church (Matt. 16:18), beautifully arranged and adorned in the fashion that He desired, detailed in the New Testament by a divine pattern of organization, manner of worship, terms of entrance, and such like. Many think that they can spiritually live divisively, but it is not what they thought. Many have preconceived ideas about how we should do things religiously, or how God should do things spiritually. Many think, but it was not what they thought! Therefore, may we all learn to trust God and do things precisely as He has requested. Only then will we avoid thinking the wrong way! Only then will I avoid the vivid scenario to come in the Judgment Day of waking up in hell, only to realize, “I thought, but it was not what I thought!”

Face the Book

Chase Green

Yes, you read that right. No, not Facebook. Yes, face the Book! I have been thinking. What if Christians spent as much time reading the Bible as they did on Facebook and other social media platforms? Do you think things would change for the better? Do you think that Christians would have better spiritual knowledge? Do you think that we would sin less? Do you think that we would evangelize more?

According to recent statistics, users access Facebook an average of eight times per day (2017, Wordstream.com). Imagine all the good that could be accomplished if Christians would open their Bibles that many times a day!

As Christians, we take upon ourselves the noble goal of trying to change the world for the better. As was the case in Acts 17:6, Christians have the power to turn the world upside down, in a good way!

But we won't do that by spending all of our time on Facebook. We won't do that by spending all of our time on Instagram, or Twitter, or Snapchat, or any other social media platform either. Even if we are using such platforms to try to influence the world for Christ (which we should), we need to remember that good ole' fashioned Bible study, face to face, gets the job done even better. (There's just something about talking to people face to face that is usually much more effective than doing so remotely via social media).

We need to remember that we have the POWER that is the Gospel of Christ! Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” The Greek word for “power” is *dunamis*. It's the word from which we get our English word “dynamite.” Dynamite is powerful! Light a match, and “boom” goes the dynamite!

We as Christians need to “light the match,” so to speak. We need to be setting the world on fire for Christ! But first, we ourselves must be in the Word. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). We must be ready to teach others about our hope of salvation, which gives us joy, knowing that we have an inheritance awaiting us in heaven (Cf. Eph. 1:18)! Let us ensure that we spend more time dwelling on spiritual things, and less time with these other mindless entrapments that sometimes consume too much of our day.

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Mat. 28:20

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com