

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 23, 2019

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

Good Things

Kevin Rutherford

Some people love bad news. They like to hear about terrible things that have happened to other people, or they enjoy hearing of other people’s sins. If this were not true then there would be no rack at the grocery store for the tabloids. If you like to hear about bad things, then you won’t like this article. This article deals with those good things that were said about churches in the first century.

Good things about the church at Rome:

1. They were beloved of God (Romans 1:7).
2. Their faith was spoken of throughout the whole world (Romans 1:8).
3. The church at Rome had many hard workers (Romans 16:1-16).
4. Some in the church there had even risked their lives for Paul (Romans 16:3, 4).

Good things about the church at Ephesus:

1. They trusted in the Lord (Ephesians 1:13).
2. They had a strong faith (Ephesians 1:15).
3. They loved the saints (Ephesians 1:15).

Good things about the church at Philippi:

1. They fellowshipped Paul in an encouraging way (Philippians 1:3-7).
2. God had begun a good work in them (Philippians 1:6).
3. One of their members had worked so hard for the cause of Christ he had nearly died (Philippians 2:25-30).
4. They supported Paul in his preaching (Philippians 4:10-20).

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By the Numbers:

Week of 6/16/19

Contribution – \$2653

Attendance:

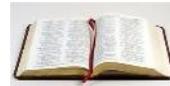
Sunday Bible Classes – 31

Sunday Worship* – 55

Wednesday Night – 39

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Charity.

Q: Which Christian’s household were the first fruits of Achaia?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Grace: License to Sin?

1. What Bible passages prove that grace is NOT a license to sin?

PM — The Parables of the Hidden Treasure & the Pearl of Great Price

1. What is the meaning of these parables?
2. How valuable are the souls that make up the kingdom of God?

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
Marlon 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 PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — Ruth Coston — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Debbie Grice — Virginia Wainwright — Jessica Hancock — Melba Tippen Creech — Dewey Young — Andrew Brown (away at internship in College Station, TX) — Stetson Ortega

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly events! See Chase if you would like to help with food or in other ways.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — No fellowship meal today since we had one last week.

(Continued from page 1)

Good things about the church at Colossae:

1. They had great faith (Colossians 1:3).
2. They had great love for the brethren (Colossians 1:3).
3. The gospel was bearing fruit among them (Colossians 1:5, 6).

Good things about the church at Thessalonica:

1. They were commended for their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
2. They received the word with joy and were examples to others (1 Thessalonians 1:6, 7).
3. The word of the Lord went out from them into many places (1 Thessalonians 1:8).

Let us do everything we can to see that these good things that were said of first century churches could also be said of the church today.

Note: It can be easy to focus on all of the church's problems and forget about the things the church is doing right. Many people point to sinful churches like Corinth, Laodicea, etc. and try to excuse away the necessity of the church, forgetting that the Word teaches that God is glorified IN THE CHURCH by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:21)! Rather than letting church problems discourage us, we ought to be looking for areas of improvement, to fix the problems, and to help one another be stronger Christians. When we run into problems (which are inevitable), we need to forbear one another in love (Eph. 4:2), not give up on the church! — TCG

James 1:18-21

Chase Green

Verse 18: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." There is so much profound teaching in this one verse!

First, this verse clearly teaches that it is God's will that men be saved. God is not some malevolent tyrant looking to punish people. While His divine justice demands that He punish evildoers, He does not take pleasure in doing so. Rather, He desires that all men turn to Him and be saved. See Eze. 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9.

Second, this verse teaches that God begat us (past tense of "beget," which means "to give birth to"). Thus, those who have been saved have been reborn. This truth is clearly taught in John 3:1-11 and involves being born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

Third, the Word of Truth is involved in our rebirth as well. James 1:21 says that we have to receive with meekness the engrafted Word that is able to save our souls. Romans 10:17 tells us how — by producing faith upon hearing the Word, and faith then producing obedience to the Gospel.

Fourth, this verse teaches that those who are saved are God's first fruits. We might say that humanity in general composes God's first fruits (in order of importance compared to animals — see Gen. 1:26), and those who are saved are the first fruits of humanity! Why? Because we have been redeemed, that is, "bought back" after having corrupted ourselves through sin (Rev. 14:4)!

Verse 19: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." In view of being born again by the Word of truth as God's first fruits, knowledge of this fact ought to affect our attitudes in three ways: We must be 1) swift to hear, 2) slow to speak, and 3) slow to wrath. I have heard it said that God gave us two ears but only one mouth for a reason! In other words, it would be wise to do twice as much listening as we do talking, because we need to weigh our words heavily and realize the consequences of ill spoken words that can't be taken back!

In view of where WE came from (sinner to saved), we need to be patient with those who are still lost, gently guiding them toward the Truth in hopes that they will obey it. When unsaved people act like unsaved people, this shouldn't surprise us. It shouldn't surprise us when they mistreat us or speak ill about us. We need to be careful how we handle such situations. Will we respond in wrath, making the situation even worse? Or will we respond with grace, seasoned with salt that we may know how to answer every man (Col. 4:6)?

Verse 20: "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." If we respond with wrath, we are not showing the love, nor the righteousness, of God to the lost and dying world around us. Therefore, we must remember to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

Verse 21: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." James concludes this section imploring Christians to set aside all forms of filthiness and superfluity (or "abundance," *Strong's*) of naughtiness and meekly receive the Word that has the power to save our souls (see Rom. 1:16). Since James is speaking to people who are already Christians, what does this say about the relationship between the Word and continued faithfulness/salvation? It says that continued study of it is critical to being in a continued saved state! How can we know how to continue to be faithful if we are not studying the Word?! See 2 Tim. 2:15. With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

James 1:22

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