

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

July 7, 2019

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

## Respect Toward the Word of God

Dan Jenkins

The comments made by those who visit our services are so important. One visitor said, “I’ve been to many churches and they talk about the Bible; at this church you let the Bible talk to you.” Our goal is to simply open the Bible and let the message of this amazing book guide us in every aspect of our lives. There is a reason why our classes and sermons are different. We truly want to have the same attitude toward the Bible that Jesus had. Take a moment and think about Jesus and His respect for the word of God. We must have that same respect.

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE JESUS BELIEVED THE BIBLE. He believed that it described precisely what God had done in the past. He really believed the Genesis account of God creating Adam and Eve (Mark 10:6-8). He believed in the Divine origin of marriage. He believed the story of Noah and the great flood (Luke 17:26-27). He believed that God destroyed Sodom (Luke 17:32). He believed God spoke to Moses at the burning bush (Mark 12:26) and gave the manna from heaven (John 6:49). He believed that Jonah was inside the great fish for three days and three nights (Matt. 12:40). Jesus believed the Bible.

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE JESUS BELIEVED THAT EVERY SINGLE LETTER OF EVERY WORD WAS GIVEN BY GOD AND NOT ONE LETTER HAS BEEN LOST. Sometimes we might think that since so many years have passed that we can have no assurance parts of it have not been lost. Think about this. The smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet is a jot, and Jesus said not a single one of them had been lost (Matt. 5:18). He gave us His words in the New Testament and promised that every word He spoke would abide till the end of time (Matt. 24:35). He believed the eternal nature of the Bible and so must we.

(Continued on page 2)

### By the Numbers:

Week of 6/30/19

Contribution – \$2557

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship\* – 45

Wednesday Night – 33

\*Total for the day

### Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2).

Q: What did Paul charge Timothy to do while he abode still at Ephesus?

Answer to be given next week!

### SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Decent and in Order

1. How can we ensure that our worship is decent and in order?
2. Should we do our best to prepare our minds for worship?

PM — The Parable of the Vineyard Laborers

1. Is there seniority in God’s kingdom?

#### 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  
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, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Wendy Traweek, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young (recovering from oral surgery), Andrew Brown (away at internship in College Station, TX), Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones, Bill & Sharon Schooley (traveling in Alaska till Saturday), Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands

### **OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Food Pantry: We have been blessed with opportunities to help several families with food recently. Consequently, we are in need of food for restocking (all items currently needed, including canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups/chili, pasta noodles, etc.)
- 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: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.

(Continued from page 1)

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE JESUS SAID IT WOULD BE THE BASIS OF THE JUDGMENT OF OUR LIVES AT THE END. How do you decide how to live? What guide do you have about how to live on this earth? Listen to the words of Jesus. “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Looking at nature can let us know God exists, but it cannot reveal how He wants us to live (Psa. 19:1-2). He has revealed Himself to us and given us His eternal word to be our guide.

If you visit our services, you will sense a deep respect for the Bible and a sincere effort to study every word in the Bible. Jesus taught that His words are the life source given to us by God (John 6:63). God help us to return to His word with the same attitude of respect and reverence for the Bible that Jesus had. There is no other way!

## ***James 1:26-27*** ***Chase Green***

By way of quick review, what we have studied so far in the book of James can be summed up as follows: the Christian’s joy during times of trials (**verses 2-4**), a Christian’s need for wisdom (**verses 5-8**), spiritual equality of Christians from various economic backgrounds (**verses 9-11**), the source of trials and temptations — the Devil, not God (**verses 12-17**), teaching on our Christian rebirth through the Word and the resulting change of actions, including how we treat people with our speech (**verses 18-21**), and the utmost importance of being doers of the Word, and not hearers only (**verses 22-25**). In short, chapter one is a great overview of true religion, which will be further described in the last two verses of the chapter.

**Verse 26:** “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.” This is critical: it is possible for man to SEEM religious, but in actuality practice vain religion. This is not saying that RELIGION is vain, as some erroneously teach today, but it IS saying that a certain TYPE of religion is vain (hypocritical religion). If a person claims to be religious, and yet won’t even control his tongue (his speech — see James 1:19-20; 3:1-12), his “religion” is nothing but deception. Not only is he deceiving others, but he’s deceiving HIMSELF. He may think that he can get away with this behavior, but he will not.

**Verses 27:** “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” This one verse defeats the popular idea of “Give me Jesus, not religion.” James says that there IS such a thing as pure religion. And what is it? The kind of religion that is not hollow or surface-level or fake, but religion that is backed up with action. James gives two examples: 1) visitation, and 2) avoidance of sin.

We often think of Christian visitation in terms of hospital visits. This is certainly Biblical, and needed, (see James 5:14a), but the two types of visitation mentioned here include orphans and widows. Perhaps two of the most vulnerable elements of society are orphans and widows. This was certainly the case in ancient times, and is still very much the case today in most places. The Greek word translated as “visit” is “*episkeptomai*,” and means “to look upon in order to help or to benefit” (Thayer). Thus, Christian visitation should be about helping people more so than making social calls. Certainly, there is a social element to it, but we need to make sure that we first and foremost give attentive care to those in need.

The second part of true religion mentioned by James is keeping oneself unspotted from the world. A Christian may feign religion simply by showing up to worship services and Bible classes a few times a week, but if he is living like the world the rest of the week, his “Christianity” is vain. The true Christian’s life is a continual transformation that started when he became a Christian, and continues throughout his life as he seeks to become more and more like Christ. “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). A Christian can not live like the world and expect that God will accept his religion.

With love, Chase

### **THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE**

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”  
James 2:14

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