

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

September 1, 2019

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

## How to Talk to My Friends About the Church

Todd Clippard

Speak INTELLIGENTLY - This requires STUDY. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). May we never be guilty of misusing or misrepresenting God's Word. Speaking intelligently requires a knowledge of what to say, but it also includes knowing how to say it. Too many people have been driven from the truth by well-meaning Christians either through poor attitudes or poor selection of words. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, so that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Jesus spoke in words the common man could understand (Mark 12:37). Use words that are easily understood and create an interest in learning more.

Speak INCREMENTALLY - Don't try to teach everything you know (or think you know) in one sitting. Sometimes in our zeal to teach, we overload our audience with too much information. Remember ... most of our friends have never considered the idea that denominationalism is anti-biblical and unacceptable to God. The "one church is as good as another" idea has been taught to them all their lives. Even Jesus practiced this principle. In John 16:12, He told the twelve, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." These men had been with Jesus, heard His teaching, and witnessed His miracles for three years, yet Jesus knew the limitations of their understanding. Paul writes similarly to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11:34.

Speak ILLUSTRATIVELY - "A picture is worth a thousand words." The same is true in teaching. We all love to hear folks who can "spin yarns" and place you in the middle of their stories as if you were an invisible spectator. Great teachers and preachers do the same. Consider Jesus' first record sermon in Matthew 5-7. Jesus pictured His audience as the light of the world and a city on a hill (5:13-16). Not coincidentally, He was on a mountain at the time. He illustrated the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (6:1-8) and the worthlessness of worry (6:25-34). He illustrated using hyperbole (an intended exaggeration - 7:1-5). He spoke of narrow and broad roads (7:13-14), of sheep and (ctnd. on pg. 2)

## By the Numbers:

Week of 8/25/19

Contribution – \$2727

Attendance:

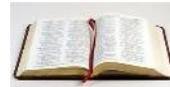
Sunday Bible Classes – 37

Sunday Worship\* – 59

Wednesday Night – 31

\*Total for the day

## Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: The glorious gospel of the blessed God (1 Tim. 1:11).

Q: Before Paul became a minister, what was he toward God?

Answer to be given next week!

## SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — All Will Give Account (Rom 14:12)

1. What is the context of this verse?
2. Name several things that we will give account of on the Day of Judgement.

PM — The Parables of the Unmerciful Servant & the Two Debtors

1. What does this teach about forgiveness?

### 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

### Preacher

Chase Green  
318-608-7418

### Elders

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

### Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - 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 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, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Bettie Young, Ryan & Lacey Smith (traveling to Florida this weekend), Stetson Ortega (having buttons put in his ears Wednesday, Sept. 4)

### OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Youth night planned for this Friday. See Chase for details.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.

(continued from page 1)

wolves, figs and thistles (7:15-20), of firm and foundering foundations (7:21-27). In like fashion, the church is pictured in many ways. It is called a kingdom in Matthew 13, meaning it has a king, subjects, a law, and a boundary. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul describes the church as a family (v. 1), a field or vineyard (v. 9), a building (vv. 9-14), and as a temple (vv. 16-17). All of these characteristics of the church can be explored individually.

Finally, speak **INSISTENTLY** - "Buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). Do not compromise the truth. Where the Bible speaks definitively on a subject, we must be firm in our resolve concerning that truth. The Bible speaks clearly as to the number of churches having a scriptural right to exist ... ONE! Jesus promised to build His church, not churches (Matt. 16:18). On the day of Pentecost, the saved were added to the church (Acts 2:47). Ephesians 4:4 says there is one body. Earlier in that same epistle, Paul equated that body with the church (Eph. 1:23). Later, in Ephesians 5:23-32, Paul uses 12 nouns and pronouns to describe the church ... all of them singular. This settles the matter of how many churches Jesus built and how many existed in the New Testament.

We must not be ashamed to say what the Bible says on this or any other subject (Mark 8:38). Let us all prepare ourselves to speak as oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). Anything less is to do God and His Word a terrible injustice.

### *James 4:7-10*

*Chase Green*

**Verse 7:** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." It is not human nature to be willing to submit. It must be learned. The English word "submit" means to "accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person," and comes from the Latin "*submittere*," meaning "under send/put" (lexico.com by Oxford Dictionary). God is the superior Authority under Whom we must submit. We have no right to usurp authority over the Creator of this universe.

Paraphrasing one of my MSOP instructors (B. J. Clarke), he would always tell us, in responding to someone who arrogantly rebels against God, we ought to say something to this effect: "You want to make the rules? You want to decide for yourself what's right and what's wrong? Then go make for yourself a universe and then get back with me." In other words, we as humans CAN'T make the rules! We can't determine (in our OWN judgment) right and wrong, because we DON'T have the ability to create the universe! God is the ONLY One Who could do that, and the very fact that He has the power to create (and destroy) the universe is enough to make us fall down and submit ourselves to Him!

Yes, we must submit ourselves to God (the higher Authority) and we must resist the highest evil (Satan). The Devil is relentless. He doesn't give up after the first try. Rather, again and again he persists in tempting us, but we can and must resist him! Jesus gave us the perfect example of resisting Satan in Matthew chapter 4. There, three times Satan came tempting Him, and there three times Jesus resisted, responding "It is written." Eventually, Satan gave up, and left Jesus (Matt. 4:11)! We too can resist the devil and he will flee from us. The key is that we must resist him by responding, "It is written."

**Verse 8:** "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." I picture here a father and son or daughter drawing near to one another in a loving embrace. Oftentimes a child will immediately reach for his father or mother's arms after having been disciplined. Why is this? Because the child longs to be accepted and in fellowship with his father/mother again. He has learned, in the moment of discipline, that he has been a displeasure to his father/mother, and desires to once again be in his/her good graces.

The same is the case with Christians. We must desire to draw nigh to God. When we fall short of His glory through sin, we must desire to be reconciled with Him. He will lovingly embrace us again, but we must take the first step by submitting to Him again in repentance. Thus, we must cleanse our sinful hands, and purify our double minded hearts if we expect to be brought back close to God once again.

**Verse 9:** "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness." This verse reminds me of Joel 2:13: "Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God..." Sin should cause us to be afflicted, and mourn, and weep. It should tear us up. A Christian should never find himself in the mentality that he is okay with sin. If he does, he surely has had his conscience seared (1 Tim. 4:2), and will likely need an intense "wakeup call" if he is to return to the faith. See also Ezek. 18:27-30; Jer. 31:9; Luke 18:13; 2 Cor. 7:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:25-26 for a good study of penitence.

**Verse 10:** "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." In order to submit to God, first and foremost, one must be willing to humble himself. In so doing, God will then lovingly lift the sinner back up upon recognition of his repentance.

#### **THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David."  
Luke 1:32

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