

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

September 8, 2019

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

***Who's in Charge?***  
*Dean Kelly*  
(Scriptures taken from the NKJV)

On March 30, 1981, when President Ronald Reagan was shot and Vice-President Bush was out of communication, Secretary of State Alexander Haig repeatedly insisted that he was in charge of the Federal Government. He was wrong. This lack of understanding of who was in charge may have seriously ended Haig's career, and certainly it ended hopes he had of running for President.


We have to know who is actually in charge to please God. If we get that wrong, it won't just cost us a career, it will cost us eternity. I have said, over the years, that I believe the idea expressed by some bumper stickers is totally incorrect: "God is My Copilot." The fact is that God must be the Pilot, and I must be the copilot of my life. I believe that this is the problem for many who profess faith in God. They have the order mixed up. While this statement implies an involvement by God, it fails to recognize the preeminence of God in one's actions. I need to make sure that **God is in charge**.

Another saying I have talked about is “God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It.” I would correct that to say, “God Said it, That Settles It, I must believe it.” The point here is the authority of God. God’s Word is “settled” (Psalms 119:89). It is true regardless of whether I believe it or not. I must submit to His will, which is truth (John 17:17). The prophet clearly stated the need for God to be in charge. Jeremiah 10:23 reads, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” Solomon repeated the same phrase in Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 16:25, which says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” We need God.

Who is in charge in your life, in your home, in the local congregation, etc.? It is up to us to put God in charge and to follow His will in every phase of our lives. We must be His obedient, faithful servants, praying for wisdom (James 1:5) and humility to submit to the mighty hand of God (1 Peter 5:6).

**By the Numbers:**  
*Week of 9/1/19*  
*Contribution – \$2450*  
*Attendance:*  
*Sunday Bible Classes – 38*  
*Sunday Worship\* – 51*  
*Wednesday Night – 38*  
  
\*Total for the day

***Bible Trivia Question***



**Last Week's Answer: A blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious (1 Tim. 1:13).**

**Q: Who did Paul say was chief of sinners?**

**Answer to be given next week!**

# SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — No Private Interpretation

1. In what verse is this concept found?
2. What other passages talk about the inspiration of the Scriptures?

PM — The Parable of the Friend at Midnight

1. What can we learn about prayer from this parable?



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**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.

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)

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

CHRIST  
D  
94

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mailing Address

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**Preacher**  
Chase Green  
318-608-7418

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

**Missions Supported**  
Romie Gootam - India  
Marlon Retana - Panama  
Brad Harub - Focus Press

2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Rom. 10:17).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Heb. 11:6).
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).

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## 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, 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, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young (was thought to have had a mild heart attack last Sunday, but thankfully tests proved this not to be the case; she has a problem in her neck that was causing arm pain/numbness and will need to have an MRI soon), Wendy Traweek (in ICU room 15 at GRMC in critical condition with kidney failure), Bill Schooley (hernia surgery Monday at Ouachita Surgical)

### OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.

## The Five B's of Baptism

### Buried

Buried or immersed in the water. Romans 6:3-4

### Believers

For those who are able to understand  
and believe. Mark 16:16

### Before

Baptism comes before forgiveness. Mark 16:16

### Birth

Baptism is the birth of a Christian. John 3:5

### Blood

The blood of Christ is applied to cleanse us from our sins.

Revelation 1:4-5

[www.truthfortheworld.org](http://www.truthfortheworld.org) 

## *James 4:11-12*

*Chase Green*

**Verse 11:** “Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.” Many people are quick to excuse away their sins by quoting Mathew 7:1: “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” Likewise, they may point to this passage in James, or the passage in Romans 14:4ff: “Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand...”

But these passages, in actuality, are not referring to making no judgments at all (See John 7:24), but rather address very specific types of sinful judgment. Reading the verses subsequent to Matthew 7:1 reveals that Jesus was talking about not making **HYPOCRITICAL JUDGMENTS**. Reading Romans 14:4 in its context reveals that Paul was talking about not judging others in **MATTERS OF OPINION**. And this passage in James is talking about not harshly judging others by **EVIL SPEAKING**. The American Standard Version uses the term speaking “AGAINST another.” The idea is that Christians should not be quick to tear one another down, speaking evil about one another without knowing all the facts (a.k.a. gossip, or backbiting).

Sometimes Christians (well-meaning, or perhaps not-so-well-meaning) become guilty of this when they speak ill of others based upon hearsay, rather than actually going to the (possibly) offending brother or sister themselves. We must be careful not to accept the testimony of a talebearer. Talebearers can cause great harm to the Lord's church. Heed these six warnings found in Scripture: “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD” (Lev. 19:16). “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Prov. 11:13). “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Prov. 18:8). “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Prov. 20:19). “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth” (Prov. 26:20). “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Prov. 26:22).

Rather than speaking evil against other Christians because of what you've “heard through the grapevine,” a.k.a. gossip, go to that person and find out the truth for yourself (See Matthew 18:15ff). You may find that the entire story was completely made up (false), or you may find it to be true. If that be the case, then the steps of church discipline are in order. Remember, though, to not count him (or her) as an enemy, but rather admonish him (or her) as a brother (or sister) (2 The. 3:15).

**Verse 12:** “There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?” In other words, no mere human is the final Judge of men's souls. Jesus will fill that role (Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:10)! Therefore, we must remember our own fallibility in making judgments. With that in mind, we will be “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19). We won't speak evil about one another without cause, and even when we must mark others for division and false doctrine (Rom. 16:17), we won't do so smugly with a smile, almost as if we *enjoy* practicing church discipline, but rather we will do so sorrowfully, because a brother or sister has voluntarily judged himself or herself unworthy of everlasting life (Acts 13:46).

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

“And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”  
Luke 1:33

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](http://Beaconcofc.com)