

KJV

KING JAMES BIBLE  
USED FOR ALL  
REFERENCES TO  
GOD'S WORD IN  
THIS NEWSPAPER

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?” 1 Corinthians 14:8

# The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...” Jeremiah 6:16

## Sounding Out The Faith

OCTOBER 2014

### Where Have You Pitched Your Tent?

Abram was commanded to go to a land that God had for him. Abram did as God commanded for God promised a blessing to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3. As Abram went, he took his wife and his brother's son, Lot, and their substance. (Genesis 12:4-5)

In Genesis 13:1-18, we see Abram and Lot with a problem. They separated to solve the problem, but Lot still had problems. Let's look at these problems.

In Genesis 13:10, we see Lot's first problem. Lot's eyes lusted. As Lot did, so do we today. We look at the things of the world, how attractive they are. (i.e. music, television, dances, money, power, etc.) I John 2:15-17 says we should not love the things of the world. I Peter 2:11-12 says, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." Lot was tempted, but not of God. We are not tempted of God either. (James 1:12-15)

In Genesis 13:11, we see Lot's second problem. Lot did what his eyes desired. It was bad enough to look at the world, but to willfully be *of* this world is sin. We are to be separate. (John 17:13-18)

In that same verse, we also see Lot's third problem. Lot separated himself from the Godly, his Uncle Abram. We,

as children of God, need Godly people to fellowship with. (Hebrews 10:25) When we separate from the will of God, we do things that are not pleasing to God. We become carnal in our thinking just as Peter was in Matthew 17:1-8. We begin to focus on the wrong things, instead of Jesus. Sin is what separates people from God. (James 1:15)

Genesis 13:12 shows us Lot's fourth problem. Lot dwelled in the cities of the plains. Lot had not gone as far as to live in Sodom, but dwelled on the outer parts. Remember I Corinthians 5:6, "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" Given enough time, a little sin will cause a whole lot more of sin.

Lot's final problem is seen in Genesis chapter 19. Lot's final problem was not with him, but with those he loved. Remember Lot's wife looked back? She could not leave Sodom. (verse 26) Remember some of Lot's daughters didn't even leave Sodom? Two of his daughters did leave Sodom, but Sodom did not leave them. (verses 30-38) Lot, when in Sodom or sin, had lost his influence and even called the wicked men of Sodom, "brethren".

Lost or saved, where have you pitched your tent, your life? Have you pitched your tent with Lot in and around Sodom? Or, have you pitched your tent with Abram? Genesis 13:14, "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward."

### Holy Math

"Lord, you want me to do WHAT?!" This must have been what Joshua was thinking as he listened to the Lord's instructions concerning how to take Jericho. Since when do the walls of a city fall when you walk around it once a day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, and then blow a trumpet and have everyone shout? Since when do the walls of that city then fall flat? It just doesn't add up. It's a good thing Joshua knew Holy math and obeyed. (Joshua 5:13-6:27)

The widow of Zarepheth knew exactly how much food she had left. It was only enough for one more meal for her and her son. Elijah came along and told her not to be afraid but to go make him a cake first and then for her and her son. She did it. Why did the woman go and do as she was told even though it didn't add up? The barrel of meal never reached the bottom and neither did the cruse of oil until after the famine was over. Why? This woman knew Holy math, too. (I Kings 17:8-16)

Holy math is simple, but unfathomable. The New City Jerusalem, a huge cube, is 12,000 furlongs, which converts to about 1,500 miles. We can comprehend the length and width and see that it would cover land from the Pacific Ocean to the Missouri River and from Canada to Mexico. At 1,500 miles, the height of this city is incomprehensible. The tallest building in the world, the Burj Kahlifa in Dubai, is ½ mile high. Planes fly generally about seven to eight miles high. A 1,500 mile high city is simply unfathomable with our finite minds. (Revelation 21:15-16)

What is Holy math? It is defined in I John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 + 1 + 1 = **ONE**

### Two-Fold Nature of a Born Again Believer in Christ

In John 3:3-12 Jesus told Nicodemus of it. A man's spirit, when it is born of God, is not depraved or corrupt. It is made a partaker of the divine nature of God. (II Peter 1:4; John 3:6; I John 3:9) The mind and body are not born of God. As long as he is in the flesh life, his flesh is still depraved and corrupt according to the old nature. (James 1:13-15) The saved have two natures.

The mind is redeemed day by day by growing in grace. (Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:5-11; II Peter 3:18) The body is not redeemed until the resurrection. (Romans 8:23)

The unsaved have one nature, depraved and corrupt. (John 8:44) The saved belong to God both body, soul, and spirit, (I Corinthians 6:19-20) but the sinful nature remains.

Terms used in the Bible to show the difference between the natural man and the spiritual man are:

- \* The inward man is the "whosoever is born of God" and cannot sin. (I John 3:9) The spiritual man, or inward man, is refreshed with the water of life. (John 4:14) Paul said the inward man delights in the Word of God. (Romans 7:22) The inward man is strengthened by the Spirit through the Word. (Ephesians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12)

- \* Man's spirit is begotten of God in salvation and is a partaker of the divine nature. (I Corinthians 3:1-4) The spiritual man has a spiritual mind, but the carnal man has a carnal mind. (Romans 8:1-14)

- \* Man still lives in a natural body today, even after he is saved. This is the natural man. (I Corinthians 2:14-1; Ephesians 2:3, I Corinthians 15:46) There is coming a time when he will receive an incorruptible body. This is the spiritual man dwelling inside. (I Corinthians 1:42)

These natures are at war with each other. (Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:22-25; Romans 8:6-7) The fleshly body must be kept under subjection to the new nature. (I Corinthians 9:27) The works of the flesh are against and opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:17-25) The old nature remains untamed until death. (Job 11:12)

A man that says he has no sin is a self-deceiver. God used John and Paul both to say they had sin in them. (Romans 7:17-18,20; I John 1:8) All mankind sins. (Ecclesiastes 7:20) Sin when it is finished, brings forth death to every man. (I Corinthians 15:5-6; Romans 8:11)

For the saved, there is truly hope! (Romans 11:33; I John 3:1-3)

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# A LOOK AT LANDMARKISM

One part of “Landmarkism” is the lesson of church succession. Note that we did not say “church perpetuity”, because that would mean that the first local church would last forever. Succession is more the idea of a process put in place to ensure the continuation of a previous cause. Much like a king’s blood line; the original king may die, but his offspring continue the “Royal” name within the kingdom. An original tree in the forest may no longer exist, but its seedlings grow in its place. That which had an origin in creation is succeeded by the next generation. Perpetuity on the other hand is something everlasting. The kings of Israel were not promised perpetuity themselves, but the kingly line of David is perpetual or everlasting by the promise of God.

Landmark’s Bible doctrine of church succession is the same way. The first Lord’s church in Jerusalem may not now be found by address. It has moved forward as commissioned and has addresses all over the world. The local visible church **system** of succession by God’s commission, of which Jerusalem Church was the original, is perpetuated by God’s design. (Acts 8:13-17) When the Lord spoke of returning, He was speaking to the original church. He said, “I will come again, and receive **you** unto myself.” Did He lie, or is the original church with us in the continuation of the doctrines and practices of today’s New Testament churches? What He said was spoken to the original church, but it was pertinent to any church which Jerusalem, led by the Holy Spirit, would organize.

The Jerusalem Church, given the commission, has passed on the promises and characteristics that made her the Lord’s church to the churches in Judaea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world. They are the fruits of her obedience to Christ. The Samaritan Church became in Samaria what the Jerusalem Church was in Jerusalem. The promises of Christ to go and prepare a place and return to take His prepared people to Himself, is a promise to Samaria as it was to Jerusalem. The two churches were one, although independent, in doctrine, practice, and origin. They may have started on different calendar dates, but they came from the same fountain. You say, “Not so, because the Samaria Church was started in Samaria and the Jerusalem Church was started in Judaea.” Ask the Samaritan Church where it came from? They would answer that they came from the Lord’s church in Jerusalem.

The second church had to come from the first church carrying out the commission. This is where the old saying came from, “*churches beget churches*”. All New Testament churches come into existence being the product of the ongoing, or unending, church planting, missionary work which began in Jerusalem. Through Jerusalem and the apostolic powers that were installed there, the commission was handed off to the Samaritan Church to reproduce where the Lord would lead them. It was to the Jerusalem Church the first worldwide commission was given to reproduce herself in other locations. This was done by the authority of Christ. She could not do it Scripturally unless authorized and commissioned to do so. (Acts 13:1-4)

Some, if not many, think that if you pick up a Bible that the authorization and commission automatically belong to the reader. Just because you pick up a rulebook for some association or organization does not make you an authorized member of that group to act on behalf of that assembly. Just because the Philistines captured God’s Ark of the Covenant and put it in their temple didn’t mean that He was their God.

You do not gain God, you have to join God. You do not “become” a church, you have to join one. If you did not join or become a member of the Jerusalem congregation the same way that the 120 in the upper room did, or if you were not added like those on the day of Pentecost, then you had no permission to perform the commission. If you were not in the church, then the commission was not given to you. Those who read the commission, which teaches to go, baptize, organize a congrega-

tion to observe the Lord’s Supper, without being first added to and sent by a New Testament church, are usurping the authority of Christ. (Acts 2:41-47)

An illustration is before a soldier goes away to war, he/she will get a lawyer to draw up a *Power of Attorney*, giving their spouse the right to sign their name to any document requiring their authorized signature. Nobody else, but the empowered, have the legal right to use their name. In fact, to do so is criminal. The church’s, or bride of Christ’s, commission is the Bridegroom getting ready to go away. He is giving the bride the right, and the power, to do the work of the commission in His name. (Matthew 28:16-20)

In the Old Testament, God placed His name, or His authority, in the Tabernacle and Temple. That gave the Jewish priesthood alone the rights to perform the Tabernacle rituals or later the Temple sacrificial services to God’s name. The New Testament Christ took the law, and the name, and the Word of God and placed them safely into the hands of His future bride, His church in Jerusalem. He did not leave it with the Jews of the Temple. He did not reserve it for the man-made church organizations which would come into existence during the anti-Catholic, protestant, reformation period. He did not, has not, and will not give it to every Joseph Smith, Ellen G. White, or Charles Taze Russell who decides they don’t like the original succession of churches that Christ set up.

Christ gave it to and promised to return to that church in Jerusalem which the gates of Hell, death, cannot prevail against. The only way that the reformers and cults can justify their origins or foundations is to claim that the original foundations of the Lord’s churches and promises of succession by Christ failed, or died, and Christ lied. If you are seeking a church, prayerfully seek for the original, the historical, and the continuing commissioned churches organized by Christ.

Like the outward appearance of the Tabernacle of Moses, the Lord’s churches may not look outwardly as tempting as some man-made organizations. However, her bridal beauty is not found in her outward makeup, but in her Groom. A church gives God glory, but when the Bridegroom walks into a church, the glory is all His to give. A church without Christ has nothing to offer to God. Just as the young shepherd boy, David, did not look as outwardly “kingly” as Saul, or even as his older brothers, but he was a man after God’s own heart.

Christ in His church is more glory to God than all the cathedrals, palaces, or religious robes man can dream up. God does not need the wise men after the flesh, the mighty, or the noble, but He chooses to call the foolish things according to the world to confound the wise. God hath chosen the weak things, according to the world’s opinion, to confound the things which are mighty. He chooses base things, and things despised, and things which are not of this worldly flesh to bring to naught things that are. He chose a church system that the world cannot stand. They hate it. They persecute it. Even at that, it still marches on through human history as designed by God.

Some say it is impossible to trace a lineage of churches back to the days of Christ and His first local, visible bride. We might insert a couple of words here to think about: **God can!** God knows all his works from the beginning to the end.

You and I cannot trace by address every man in our ancestral heritage back to the original man, Adam. However, **God can!** All I need is to know by faith that there is an unbroken chain of humanity from me to Adam. God did not create Adam and then man died out of existence and God started over with a new blood line of humanity. You and I are a continuation of the original creation of mankind. Adam and his bride were commissioned to populate the earth. We believe we, as humans, are fruits of that first commission given to mankind.

The original bloodline was numerically challenged

during the flood of Noah, but it was still intact even with only eight souls continuing the mission to repopulate the earth. The first man God created is not here, but is still represented here in his offspring. If at any time, the original bloodline had died out, we could not make that statement. In the same way the first church Christ created in Jerusalem still exists in the fruits of its labors. If at any time the church line had died out, we could not claim church succession as a Bible doctrine. Christ and His bride made up of New Testament church members will reunite just as if he had returned while the apostles were still in Jerusalem. He did not and will not have to re-invent His churches. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 3:21)

Some may say the history of the Lord’s churches gets a little vague during the dark ages. It is true the persecution fires of Catholicism burned the Lord’s church buildings, killed His church members, and destroyed the libraries of many of these churches. Yes, some of the paper trail may be found in the ashes of torments so that church history written as an *autobiography* may be found few and far between. However, a lot of historical evidence is found in the writings of the persecutors and prosecution documents. Those who tried to exterminate the history of the Lord’s churches are the ones who actually testify of their existence down through the ages. You cannot read the accounts of martyrs and inquisitions and not see the trail of blood that tracks the Lord’s churches by the sufferings they endured for the Savior’s cause.

The writers that first recorded the churches’ persecutions only desired to see the Lord’s churches become extinct. However, all through their writings, you can see the churches of Christ emerging from time to time from the hiding places God provided for them in each generation. It is upon the promises of God and the testimonies of the persecutors that we know the Lord’s churches did not cease to exist or compromise to fit in, in order to escape the troubles.

Much of church history is then like the proverbial train that is seen traveling across a great plain and then disappearing into the winding mountain tunnels. We see glimpses of it every now and then when it exits one tunnel into the light of day and before it again is hidden by the next. We also know that the train that reappears out the other end is the same train that entered. You know by the scheduling of those that sent the train when it left, where it was destined, and when it should arrive. The Jerusalem Church was sent by Christ to meet Him at the Father’s appointed time. The Jerusalem Church became the churches that went into the dark ages and will be raised at the rapture with all the churches of her lineage to become together the New Jerusalem, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, as the bride, the Lamb’s wife.

A lot of effort has been well-spent writing books about “church history”. The foundation thoughts of any effort to study history will determine what you discover in the research or searching for the historical “church”. It is true that the cults have a history. It is true that the Protestants of the reformation era have a history. It is true that the Catholic’s they protested against have a history. However, as they emerge this side of the tunnels of the dark ages, how many of them have the origin, doctrines, and practices of the train that first entered into those tunnels?

When it comes to origins, they are all too young to lay Scriptural claim to beginning 2,000 years ago. They all had their opportunities **to join** what the Lord started, but chose to found their own societies of religion based on their own doctrines and practices. They walked away from God’s solutions like Cain and would not humbly walk **with** God. Neither the devil, nor the world’s so-called Christian societies want you to see the truth of lineage and succession of the Lord’s churches. You can turn a blind eye or sincerely pray for the Light of the world to show you the WAY. (Jude 3)

## A Godly Example

In I Corinthians 10:11, we find that the Old Testament is written for example and learning, both positive and negative. Joshua is a good and Godly example for us to consider. In Numbers 13:1-2,6,8,16, Moses was to send spies out to spy on Canaan. This was a job from God. Specific men were chosen to do this specific task. They were rulers, exalted ones, leaders among their tribes. In Numbers 14:6-10, Joshua stood for God and was righteous. He believed God even when others did not. His stand was not popular because the others wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. In Deuteronomy 1:35-38, we find that because Joshua and Caleb were faithful, they were rewarded by being able to enter into the Promised Land. Compromising did not pay off for the others. They did not believe God and did not get to see His promise fulfilled.

In Deuteronomy 34:9, we see that Joshua was full of the Spirit of wisdom. Joshua’s faithfulness and dedication led him to a greater place of leadership in God’s work. God entrusted him with the people of God, Israel. In Joshua 1:1-3,5-10, God is leading and directing Joshua just as He did with Moses. God reminds Joshua of how to be successful in his work for the Lord. His success was found in hearing and obeying the Word of the Lord.

How’s our example? In II Timothy 1:9, we see God first calls us to salvation. This calling is from God alone extended to all mankind when they reach the age of accountability. Our second calling from God is to baptism and New Testament church membership. (Acts 2:41-47; I Timothy 2:4; I Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 4:1) This is a job, vocation, from God, just like with Joshua. God has called us as New Testament Church members for a specific task.

In I Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6, we, as New Testament Church members, are the exalted ones or leaders. This position is not exalted because of ourselves, but because of

Christ paying the price for His Bride, the Church of God. In Matthew 6:33, we are told to seek first “his righteousness”. This is Christ’s righteousness, not ours. First means first. This is a stand that is not popular. Just like Joshua, we need to stand even when others don’t. (Jude 3; II Timothy 3:12-14)

Matthew 6:19-21 promises, if we are faithful, like Joshua, we will also be rewarded. (I Timothy 4:8; II John 8) We must see where our treasure is. Is it here on the earth, or there in Heaven? The earth is the wrong place to lay up treasures.

In Luke 14:11 and Revelation 3:10-11, we see if we are humble and faithful like Joshua, God will give us more responsibility. He will reward us in this life with greater work for Him and in the life to come.

What is the secret to success? It is the same for us today as it was for Joshua. We learn in Joshua 1:6-7 to be strong and stand up. We learn to do what God says and not to waiver or turn from it. Joshua 1:8 tells us to not forget the Word, but to meditate on it, live it, and then success will come.

II Corinthians 13:5 tells us to examine ourselves. See how we measure up according to the Word. Then we need to prove ourselves. Ultimately, Joshua 24:14-15 tells us we have to make a choice. Is it going to be God or something else? It’s a daily personal choice and decision we must make. It does not happen by accident.



REpent OR PERISH

Many people are hearing messages being preached that tickle their ears, or that do not offend their life style. This message today is not that type. It is as old as man himself. Many people today say that prostitution is as old as man. We can see a growth in this immoral act, but when it comes to repentance, we see a decline and even an almost inexistence. Why is it that an immoral act rises and a Godly one declines as time goes by? I believe we can see the problem in a few verses.

Judges 2:1-3 says, “And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.”

God places Israel in His land for a purpose. God told them to be separate. God let Israel live, but it was troublesome because of their disobedience. Repentance in the Bible requires more than belief and fast words. (i.e. “I’m sorry”) It takes self-examination. It takes knowing what sin is, acknowledging it and asking God to cleanse it. Then it takes despising sin.

Let’s consider some things about repentance. God demands it. (Luke 13:3) John the Baptist preached repentance and believed it strong enough not to baptize those who did not show fruits of repentance. (Matthew 3:7-10) Christ knew the

importance of repentance in a sinner. (Luke 5:32)

Yes, God demands repentance, but it is also one of the easiest things to avoid. We use the doctrine of the two natures of man as our excuse. Romans 6:1-2 says, “God forbid,” that we would use that excuse to sin.

True repentance has an intellectual element. We might say that repentance is a change of mind. This change of mind does not mean that one says, “I have sinned.” This change of mind causes the sinner to see God in an altogether different light. He sees himself as the filthy rags that God describes even our “righteousnesses” as in Isaiah 64:6.

True repentance has an emotional element. This is a person having a real heart change of their feelings. They become sorry for their sins and realize it is against God’s will for them to continue in this act of sin. Bro. Gillentine in his book, Baptist Doctrine, makes this statement:

“True repentance does not think of consequences, it does not think of other men and wonder what they are going to do. It does not plead hereditary as an excuse, but it thinks of sin as transgression against God. It thinks of personal guilt and defilement of the innermost being.”

True repentance has a voluntary element. There is a voluntary, inward turning from sin and a desire to be pardoned. This is probably the one John the Baptist was looking for when the Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized in the third chapter of Matthew. This is what we see in Luke 15:18-19, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee.

And I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.”

The primary result of repentance is pardon. To be pardoned means to be forgiven which takes place the moment the sinner acknowledges his sin and cries unto God for forgiveness. (Ephesians 1:7) The secondary result of repentance is refreshing from God. We feel like we have just taken a shower with “Zest”! Acts 3:19, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;” The ultimate result of repentance is of course a closer walk with God. There is also a future motive in Revelation 21:7, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

Who should repent? All men everywhere should repent according to Acts 17:30. It should be very clear that it is no shame to repent, but in fact it is obedience to God’s love and His desire for us. True repentance is not just a turning from sin, but a self-examination. It is a change of mind, feelings, and direction toward God.

For the saved, repentance is a need in all of God’s people at different times inwardly in order to get close to God. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” For the lost, the saving of one’s soul only comes by repentance of sin and faith in God. (Acts 20:21)

FEAR OF GOD

I. Fear – What is it?

A. Proverbs 1:7 - fear = wisdom

- 1. fear~3374~(feminine) fear; reverence; dreadful; exceedingly fearful
  - a) every place used as a noun in direct relation to God
  - b) except for Isaiah 7:25 and it is indirectly referring to a time when God will bring this time on the earth
- 2. from 3373~(masculine) fearing; reverent; afraid; fearful
- 3. from 3372~(root) to fear; to revere; to frighten; afright; make afraid; dreadful; terrible

B. I Chronicles 16:29-36 – judgment of the Lord comes

- 1. fear~2342~to twist or whirl; to writhe in pain; fall grievously; travail; tremble
- 2. salvation = not soul, but from judgment
- 3. How do we escape the judgment of the Lord?
  - a) I Chronicles 15:12-15 – according to the Word
    - i) breach~6555~to break out; to break away
    - ii) no fellowship; separation
  - b) I Chronicles 13:1-7; 15:2 – God’s ways or man’s ways
  - c) Proverbs 14:12-16 – no fear; LOOK OUT!!
- 4. Proverbs 1:22-33
  - a) If we don’t “fear” God willingly now, this will be the result.
  - b) God is not a magic genie in a bottle that we dictate to.
    - i) Genesis 1:1 – power; “strong ones”
    - ii) Isaiah 48:2 – did them suddenly

C. Deuteronomy 2:25

- 1. dread~6343~a sudden alarm; terror (the feeling)
- 2. from 6342~to be startled by a sudden alarm; make to shake
- 3. fear~3374 (shown above)

II. Fear – Can it happen to me?

A. Acts 5:1-11

- 1. Ananias and Sapphira
- 2. Who tithes?
- 3. How about offerings?
- 4. How about Romans 12:1-2?
- 5. How about Matthew 6:33?
- 6. Fear~5401~to be put in fear; alarm; exceedingly; terror

B. II Samuel 12:7-14

- 1. David’s penalty for sin
- 2. What price are you willing to pay?
- 3. This is not “just one of those things that happens”!

4. Did the price stop with the infant child?

- i. No!
- ii. Absalom
- iii. Tamar and Amnon
- iv. Adonijah
- v. Solomon

C. II Chronicles 26:1-4,15-21

- 1. Uzziah the king
- 2. Was it worth not fearing God?
- 3. Why do we do the same thing?

D. Numbers 16:1-3,19-20,29-35,40,42-50

- 1. Korah and his murmurers
- 2. God had chosen Moses to lead and Korah thought he had a better way.
- 3. Verses 23-24,26-38
  - i) God says to be separate (II Corinthians 6:14-18)
  - ii) Sign = reminder of God’s judgment for not obeying His Word

III. What is God?

A. Lamentations 3:22

- 1. Consumed~8552~to complete; in a good or bad sense; cease; come to the full end
- 2. BE VERY CAREFUL!!!
- 3. Galatians 6:7-8

B. Hebrews 10:26-31

- 1. fearful~5598~finality (last letter of the Greek alphabet)
- 2. ARE WE LISTENING?

C. Psalm 9:20

- 1. There is a total disregard for God’s Word and His commands.
- 2. There is a complete concept of compromising God’s standards and expecting that He will adjust.
- 3. WE ARE JUST “MEN”; MANKIND!!!!!!!
- 4. It is not “us doing God a favor” by being here!
- 5. It is He who is “doing us a favor” by permitting us, as sinful, wicked, fleshly man to partake in the holy things of God!!!!!!

An Outline on the Office of Deacon

Text: I Timothy 3:8-13

INTRODUCTION: The verb which is used in connection with the office of deacon is “diakoneo”. According to Thayer it means: to be a servant, attendant to serve, to wait upon. To wait at a table and offer food and drink to the guests. This is the word used by the apostles in Acts 6:2, “diakonein”. It is translated “to serve”. The form “diakonia” is used in Acts 6:1, and is translated, ministration, the daily serving.

Thayer says: “to take care of the poor and sick”. The noun is “diakonos”. “One who executes the commands of another”. A deacon: one who, by virtue of the assignment given him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use. It should also be pointed out that there are many uses of the word which do not refer to this particular office. Romans 13:4

I. The Origin of the Office – Acts 6:1-6

A. The reason for its origin. Vs. 1-2

- 1. The apostles were spending much of their time caring for the poor and widows.
- 2. They were serving tables rather than feeding the flock.
- 3. It is not fit for the pastor to look after the poor, the sick, the widows and neglect prayer and the ministry of the Word. Acts 6:4

B. The manner of its origin. Vs. 3

- 1. The church selected them.
- 2. The apostles directed them in the office.

II. The Duties of the Office

A. The first deacons were selected to serve tables of the poor and widows.

- 1. Simmons says in his book, A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine, “Let it be born in mind that deacons are servants, according to the meaning of the title, and not bosses. They are to take instructions from the church rather than dictating to the church. They are to help the pastor rather than telling him what to do. Let them remember that their office is subordinate to that of the pastor.”

III. The Qualifications of the Office

A. As given in Acts 6

- 1. Full of the Spirit – empty of self
- 2. Full of wisdom – James 1:5
- 3. Men of good report – good reputation

B. As given in I Timothy 3:8-13

- 1. Grave – serious minded, honorable
- 2. Not double tongued
- 3. Not given to much wine
- 4. Not greedy of filthy lucre – He must not love money because he might misappropriate that which is entrusted to his care and designated to the poor.
- 5. Sound in the faith – Vs. 9
- 6. Must prove himself – I Timothy 5:22; 3:6
- 7. Must have a qualified wife – Vs. 11
- 8. Must have a proper home life – Vs. 12

IV. The Reward of the Office – Vs. 13

Learning from Young Atheists: What turned them off Christianity?

(Copied from an article on August 20, 2014 by Eric Metaxas)

My friend, Larry Taunton, of the Fixed Point Foundation set out to find out why so many young “Christians” lose their faith in college. He did this by employing a method I don’t recall being used before. He asked them.

The Fixed Point Foundation asked members of the Secular Students Associations on campuses around the nation to tell them about their “journey to unbelief”. Taunton was not only surprised by the level of response, but more importantly, about the stories he and his colleagues heard.

Instead of would-be Richard Dawkins’ response, the typical respondent was more like Phil, a student Taunton interviewed. Phil had grown up in a church; he had even been the president of his youth group. What drove Phil away wasn’t the lure of secular materialism or even the “Christian” moral teaching. He was specifically upset when his church changed youth pastors.

His old youth pastor “knew the Bible” and made Phil “feel smart” about his faith, even when he didn’t have all the answers. The new youth pastor taught **less** and played **more**. Phil’s loss of faith coincided with his church’s attempt to ingratiate itself to him instead of challenging him. According to Taunton, Phil’s story “was on the whole, typical of the stories we would hear from students across the country”.

These kids had attended church, but “the mission and message of their churches was vague”, and manifested itself in offering “superficial answers to life’s questions”. The ministers they respected were those “who took the Bible seriously”, not those who sought to entertain them or be their “buddy”. Taunton also learned that, for many kids, their journey to unbelief was an emotional journey, not just an intellectual one.

Taunton’s findings are counter-intuitive. Much of what passes for youth ministry these days is driven by a morbid fear of boring our young charges. As a result, a lot of time is spent trying to devise ways to entertain them. The rest of the time is spent worrying about whether the “Christian” message will turn kids off. As Taunton found, young people, like the “not-so-young”, respect people with conviction, provided they know what they’re talking about.

Taunton talks about his experiences with the late Christopher Hitchens, who, in their debates, refrained from “attacking” him. When asked why, Hitchens replied, “Because you believe it.” I don’t know what that says about Hitchens’ other “Christian” debate partners, but it is a potent reminder that “playing-down-the-truth” claims of the “Christian” faith doesn’t work. People don’t believe those they don’t respect.

Here’s something else that one of the students told Larry Taunton. He said, “Christianity is something that if you really believed it, it would change your life and you would want to change (the lives) of others. I haven’t seen too much of that.”

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Although these “opinions” may be taken from those in religion, we, as members of local, New Testament churches should learn a lesson. Standing and contending for the truth is not only commanded by the Lord, (Jude 1-4; Ephesians 6:10-20) but it is necessary for our children to have conviction concerning the truth. This is why the Lord said He knew that Abraham would “command” his children and household and they would **keep** the way of the Lord. (Genesis 18:19) Joshua also spoke for his household in Joshua 24:15. He had conviction about the truth of God’s Word, and it had a great effect on his household after him. We need to show our children that we have something worth fighting for so that they might be converted and fight for truth as well. (Proverbs 22:28) Don’t let our children be caught unaware and have these landmarks of truth removed because we did not show them it was important enough to stand for. (Job 25:1-2)

Is this the Jesus of the Bible?

Source unknown, but this picture is a common example of artist renderings of Jesus. Elegant, sophisticated, stylish, refined... even effeminate? Is this the Jesus of the Bible?

A HUMBLE BIRTHPLACE

(Luke 2:7) “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

THE SIMPLE CARPENTER’S SON, TEACHING TRUTH

(Matthew 13:55) “Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?” (Also Matt 13:37-53)

GALILAEANS A SIMPLE PEOPLE

Peter labelled a follower of Christ and a Galilaean (Mark 14:67-70, Luke 22:55-59)

Galilaeans speaking other languages? (Acts 2:7) “And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”

Jesus a Galilaean (Luke 23:5-7) “And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.”

NOT CONCERNED ABOUT A HOME

(Matthew 8:20) “And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”

WILLING TO EAT WITH SINNERS

(Matthew 9:10-12) “And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.”

IF ALL THE ABOVE WASN'T ENOUGH... WOULD HE HAVE HAD LONG HAIR?

(1 Corinthians 11:14) “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?”

