

# The Old Paths

Volume 12, Issue 39

November 27, 2005

## “What Will You Do With The Truth?”

Jarrold Jacobs

**I**t is evident that God’s word is truth (Jn. 17:17). Once one recognizes what is truth, he must then decide what he will do with it! Let us study Acts 17 and ask what we will do with the truth.

### ***Will We Consider It Babbling?***

When Paul entered Athens and saw all the idols in that town, “his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him” (Acts 17:16-17). When the Epicureans and the Stoics heard Paul, they asked, “What will this babblers say?” (Acts 17:18). A “babbler” literally was a man, “lounging about the marketplace and picking up a subsistence by whatever may chance to fall from the merchandise; a parasite; getting a living by flattery or buffoonery; an empty talker” (Thayer’s, p. 584). These Athenians looked to Paul and thought he was some kind of fool, or someone simply speaking for entertainment. That is why there was so much interest in him at first (Acts 17:19-21).

The world at large considers the truth nothing more than foolishness. Paul wrote, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will

destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Cor. 1:18-21). It is a sad thing to see people who think the Bible is nothing more than “myths” or “stories.” Is this your attitude?

### ***Will We Mock At Truth?***

In Acts 17:22-31, we read the most profound treatise on God from the creation to the second coming. When the Athenians heard his words, “some mocked” (Acts 17:32). The implication from this passage is that they mocked so much that Paul stopped preaching (McGarvey, Original Commentary on Acts, p. 223-224)! These people spent all their time either hearing or telling some new thing, but when it came to listening to the Truth, they could not bear it (Acts 17:21, 32).

Are you one who mocks God’s word? First, let us define what it means to mock as they did. To mock at God’s word is to, “to jest, jeer at” (Vine’s, p. 528). Mr. Thayer adds the word “deride” to his definition (p. 669). After we hear someone preach, do we say, “That is just his opinion,” or “He gets paid to say that, if he didn’t say that we would get rid of him”? When we say things like this about the Bible and those who proclaim the truth,

we are mocking at the truth as they did in Paul’s day.

### ***Will We Want To Hear It Again?***

Some who heard Paul speak about the resurrection said, “We will hear thee again of this matter” (Acts 17:32). This was not something negative, but something hopeful. Some wanted to hear more about God and the resurrection.

I am afraid that people forget that the command to hear God’s words is just as binding as the command to preach! God commands us to “hear” Jesus (Matt. 17:5). When Peter preached on Pentecost, he told the people to “hear these words” (Acts 2:22). While Jesus was upon this earth, He said, “My sheep hear my voice” (Jn. 10:27). Literally, Jesus was saying that His sheep “keep on” hearing His voice, or continue to hear His voice. It is not a one-time thing!

These men wanted to hear Paul again so they could weigh God’s word against man’s word. That is what God wants all of us to do (I Thess. 5:21; Rom. 12:2)!

### ***Will We Cleave And Believe?***

A small group of people were impressed by the Truth so much that they decided right then to obey God. Acts 17:34 says, “Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.” How great it is to see people that will decide right away that they want the truth!

We should take time to study and examine God’s word, but we must not wait too long! We have no lease on life, so we must take advantage of the time we have now (II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8, 15). Christ calls people today to come

and “learn” of Him, but the invitation will not be extended forever (Matt. 11:28-30).

Too many want to hear about God, but do not want to hear God! The only way that we can know the Truth is to listen to His words (Jn. 17:17)! What kind of person are you when you are presented with the truth? Do you consider the preacher a man who is saying nothing? Do you mock at the truth? Do you seriously consider and study what has been said? Do you believe what you have heard and obey it? Let us seriously think about this because our answers to these questions will determine where we spend eternity!

## “What Therefore God Hath Joined Together”

Jarrold Jacobs

**T**he above phrase is found in Matthew 19:6. As Jesus was questioned about marriage and divorce by the Pharisees, Jesus affirmed that God made all things, and that He joined husband and wife together. In conclusion, Jesus said, “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:6). Let us look at some other things that God has joined together.

### UNLEAVENED BREAD AND THE FRUIT OF THE VINE:

When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He joined the unleavened bread and the grape juice to give us a memorial of His death. He joined these two items, and then commanded, “...this do in remembrance of

me” (Lk. 22:19; I Cor. 11:24). Jesus joined these things together, and we are not at liberty to substitute them for other items.

### CHRIST AND THE CHURCH:

Christ and the church are joined together just as a person’s head and body are joined! Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Jesus gave his own body and blood for the church (Matt. 27:58-60; Acts 20:7). Through that great sacrifice, they are inseparably joined together! For someone to announce that he will preach Christ and not the church is to tear asunder something God has united! A preacher of God’s word will recognize that you cannot preach about Christ without preaching about the church. God has joined them together. Let us make sure that we are not guilty of trying to separate Christ and the church.

### BELIEF AND BAPTISM:

In Mark 16:16, we read, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” These commands are forever joined together. It is not up to mankind to change what Jesus has said, but to obey what Jesus has said. These commands were joined for a reason, and I am duty-bound to obey them!

## “HEARING PROBLEMS, OR HEART PROBLEMS?”

Jarrold Jacobs

Most everyone agrees that in order to be saved, one must have faith that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 8:24), repent of sins and confess our faith in Christ (Lk. 13:3; Mt. 10:32). However, when talking about a person being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), these same people will deny that baptism is necessary. What is the problem? The problem is one of either their hearing or their heart. How can we know it is a problem of the hearing or the heart? Let us study Acts 16:14-15.

“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.” Notice that before Lydia was baptized, she “heard us.” Her hearing produced faith, and she was baptized (Rom. 10:17; Mk. 16:16). Not only did she listen, but the words she heard opened her heart. She laid aside all preconceived ideas, and simply listened to God’s word. As a result of the words she heard, and her open heart, she was baptized.

Therefore, when people declare that baptism is not necessary for salvation, they either have a hearing problem or a heart problem. Let us make sure our hearing is sound and our heart is open to the word of God.

*Use This Tool To Teach Others:*

[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

#### MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Morning Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 10:20 am

Sunday Evening Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm

Our call-in radio program is on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

**Preacher/Editor:** Jarrold Jacobs

**Elders:** Paul Dubois & Jeff Lankford

**Phone:** (270) 683-5386

**Website address:** [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)