

The Old Paths

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“We CAN Understand The Bible Alike”

Jarrold Jacobs

This article will be a little different than most articles that have been written in the bulletin. This is because I am going to begin by quoting from several well-known men. The purpose of this is to make a point that the religious world seems to have overlooked. The quoting of these men does not mean that they were infallible, or that they were inspired of God (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21). What it means is that we can understand the Bible alike, and that at one point in time, people were going that direction. Please consider the following:

Concerning Baptism

John Calvin (Presbyterian): “For he commands all who believe to be baptized for the remission of their sins. Therefore, those who have imagined that baptism is nothing more than a mark or sign by which we profess our religion before men, as soldiers wear the insignia of their sovereign as a mark of their profession, have not considered that which was the principal thing in baptism; which is, that we ought to receive it with this promise, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” — Mark 16:16” (“Institute,” Book IV, chapter 13).

Concerning The Lord’s Supper

John Wesley (Methodist): “I

also advise the elders to administer the Supper of the Lord on every Lord’s Day” (“Letters to America,” 1784).

Wearing Religious Names Other Than “Christian”

Martin Luther: “I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for any one. St. Paul (I Cor. 1:13) would not have any should call themselves of Paul or of Peter, but of Christ. How, then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of Christ? Cease, my dear friends to cling to these party names and distinctions; away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes” (Life of Luther, By Stork, p. 289).

John Wesley (Methodist): “Would to God that all party names and un-Scriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of the common Master to hear His Word, imbibe His spirit and to transcribe His life in our own.” He also wished that “the very name (Methodist) might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion” (Universal Knowledge, Vol. IX, p. 540).

C.H. Spurgeon (Baptist): “I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist

living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ’s name last forever” (Spurgeon Memorial Library, Vol. I, p. 168).

There are others we could cite as well, but these quotations are enough to show us that these men had a clear understanding of such passages as Mark 16:16; Acts 4:12; Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; I Peter 3:21; I Peter 4:16 and other passages. It also shows us that WE can have the same knowledge and understanding if we will but study God’s word and apply it (II Tim. 2:15).

The question remains that if these men (who were either the founders, or extremely prominent in the various denominations that exist today) could understand God’s word concerning these issues, why can’t people today understand God’s word, too? The truth is that they (and we) can understand God’s word alike (Eph. 3:4, 5:17). Perhaps the problem was best summed up when Christ said, “By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matt. 13:14-15; also Acts 26:27-28; Isa. 6:9).

It has been rightly said “It doesn’t matter what you know, but how you feel about it!” How do YOU feel about God’s word? It will judge us one day (Jn. 12:48). Are you ready for the Judgment day? Are you willing to take God at His word, follow His will and simply be a Christian (Jn. 14:15, 15:14; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 11:26; II Jn. 9)??

“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.” (Jer. 6:16)

“Remember Lot’s Wife”

Jarrood Jacobs

We read this short verse in Luke 17:32. It is an interesting thought, and something worthy of our study. In Luke 17:32, Jesus refers to what happened to Lot’s wife after the family fled from Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. As Lot and his family were leaving Sodom, having been spared by God (II Pet. 2:6-9), they were warned not to look back lest they “be consumed” (Gen. 19:17). And as humans are wont to do, when they came to Zoar, Lot’s wife did that very thing and “became a pillar of salt” (Gen. 19:23-26). Having been promised safety by God, she still paid the penalty for disobedience.

Certainly, when we think about our lives and the experiences that we have had, we can see that remembering is vital to our not repeating the same mistakes over and over again. Let us consider Lot’s wife and think about some things we ought to remember.

Friends, we need to remember that God keeps His promises. Just as God promised destruction on whomever looked back to Sodom in Genesis 19, God has promised eternal damnation for those who do not know God and do not obey His word (II Thess. 1:6-9). God has promised “rest” for the people of God (Heb. 4:9). God has also promised an eternity of living in the presence of God and Christ in Heaven (Jn. 14:1-6; Rev. 7:15-17). Seeing that God kept His word in the Old Testament, we

know He will keep it today (Rom. 2:7-11)!

In remembering Lot’s wife, we learn that God will not allow the wicked to continue indefinitely. Sodom and Gomorrah came to an end in Genesis 19. When God was through, there was nothing left but ashes and smoke (Gen. 19:28)!! The lesson we must remember is that though we may have done something “in private,” rest assured God knows about it, and we will answer for it (Num. 32:23; Prov. 15:3; Ecc. 12:13; Rom. 2:16; I Tim. 5:24-25)!!

By remembering Lot’s wife we learn that just because a place seems great, this does not tell you what is on the inside! Lot, in Genesis 13, “pitched his tent toward Sodom” because he saw the well-watered plain (v. 12). By Genesis 14:12, he was in the city, and by Genesis 19, he was sitting in the gate of the city. Though rich, this city was wicked because of homosexuality, and put simply, they were “sinners before the Lord exceedingly” (Gen. 13:13, 19:5). This “vexed” Lot’s righteous soul (II Pet. 2:7). Yet, remember that he went there voluntarily because of the physical goods he thought he could enjoy! Let us not be fooled by the belief that physical prosperity equals spiritual soundness! Many times, it is exactly the opposite!!

Please Investigate The church of Christ

- ☞ You can read about it in the New Testament - Romans 16:16
- ☞ It uses no creed but the Bible and no name but that of Christ - I Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26
- ☞ It speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent - I Peter 4:11; Galatians 1:8-9
- ☞ It exalts Christ as the only head of the church - Colossians 1:18
- ☞ Its worship is patterned after New Testament example - John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 5:19
- ☞ It teaches unity based upon the truth of Christ - John 17:21; I Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3
- ☞ It pleads for unity of all believers in Christ - I Corinthians 3:1-5; Ephesians 4:4-6
- ☞ Its founder is Christ. It is not a denomination started by men, but is the body of Christ - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23
- ☞ Its aim is to save souls by leading them to Christ through the gospel - I Corinthians 15:1-4
- ☞ Its future is eternal glory with Christ - I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Colossians 3:4

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