

Some quotes worth pondering . . .

“One of the hardest jobs facing kids today is learning good manners without seeing any.”

“He does not really believe who does not live according to his belief.”

The Beacon—Electronic Edition

Old Shawnee Days

We had an excellent response to our booth. We hope to see fruit borne in the future. Our thanks to all those who assisted and visited our booth.



June 12, 2011

HOW TO SEE EYE TO EYE RELIGIOUSLY
Mark White

Why do some people not see religious things the way we see them? Why is there so much difference between what we teach and what the denominations profess? Do we not all have the same Bible? Are we not all trying to serve the same God? Do we not all believe in the same Savior? These are perplexing questions, and they are not easily answered to everyone's satisfaction.

Basically, our understanding of the Scriptures differs from the majority of the religious world because we operate on a different principle of interpretation. To most religious people "truth" is relative, adjusting freely to different times and circumstances. For us, however, truth is truth. It is unalterable, unchangeable, and everlasting. But did "we" just arbitrarily decide this would be our regard for truth? Not at all. God's own word boldly claims "thy word is truth" (John 17:17) and "the word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth." (Psalm 33:4) While there are scoffers at the idea of absolute truth, we accept Bible teaching that such does exist, and we are determined to know it. Pilate's piercing question, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) was prompted by these words from Jesus: "I have come into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

This then, is the basis upon which we may come to see religious matters alike. There must be a commitment to the same standard of truth. No one would ever attempt to use differing standards of measurement if building a house, marking off a football field, or sewing a garment. This would guarantee error and disaster. Twelve inches must equal one foot on all our rulers if we desire uniformity. There must be a healthy regard and respect for the Bible on the part of every religious person in order

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MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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for understanding to occur. Without this common devotion to God's word, all efforts to see things the same will fail. In order to come to agreement on matters essential to salvation, we must begin where we agree. From this point we must study the Scriptures, resolving differences as we go along. Major problems of difference are solved in small steps, and then we can be united in Christ. But we will never see things the same if we cannot agree on the existence, necessity, and location of the truth.

No Bible discussion is profitable unless every participant is a truth seeker. If everyone concerned really wants the truth, then coming to an agreement and an understanding of truth will be achievable. Believe it or not, it is possible to discuss religious differences without becoming rude or creating hurt feelings. People who love the truth are not concerned with who is right, but with what is right. Every truth seeker is willing to surrender any position if it is false. There is no other honorable course for an honest man. An honest man will seek the truth, and when he finds it he will believe it. "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding." (Proverbs 23:23).

Are We Friendly To Visitors?

After a recent visit to a church where we were almost totally ignored by all the members, we searched through the files to find a survey taken by a man who visited 18 different churches and scored them for "friendliness." His scoring method was as follows:

- 10 - for a smile from a worshiper
- 10 - for a greeting from someone sitting nearby
- 100 - for an exchange of names
- 200 - for an invitation to return
- 1000 - for an introduction to another worshiper
- 2000 - for an invitation to meet the preacher

Of the 18 churches he visited, 11 scored less than 1000, and five scored less than 20!

How would we have scored if this church had been surveyed? We all hope that that our score would have been higher. But, what are YOU doing to insure that it would be?

It's very easy for us to expect others to do the important work of greeting visitors. There are some members who never arrive to greet people before the services ("surely someone else will do that!"). Afterwards we get busy talking to our friends, discussing

our interests, etc. ("some others are at the door to meet new people"). Without ever meaning to be rude, we may let some folks slip by without a greeting – without ever letting them know that we truly appreciated their visit.

It would be a great shame if someone visited our assembly and left with the impression that no one even cared that they were here. Let's be sure that it never happens!

Greg Gwin

Recognizing Value

God sent His Son to the earth to not only redeem man from sin, but to teach by both word of mouth and example. Of the great lessons Jesus taught, the concept of recognizing value is a central theme.

One cannot be a servant of God if he does not properly value the spiritual over the material as Jesus taught by both his life, **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.* And His words, **Matthew 6:19** *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

The Apostle Paul taught this lesson in his life, **Phil. 3:7** *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and by his teaching, **1 Cor. 9:26** *I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

As a result he was able to speak confidently of his salvation near the end of his life, **2 Timothy 4:7** *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* He says the same can be true for each of us. But in order for that to happen, we too, must learn to recognize value.

When shopping it is always wise to strive for the best value for our money. The same is true in living our lives. There are some "pleasures of sin for a season", we must forego but the reward is eternal and thus worth it. Otherwise we will sacrifice the eternal reward for a few earthly, temporal pleasures and pay the ultimate price of eternal condemnation. Can we recognize the true value? **Jim Stauffer**