

Rom. 14:19
So then let
us follow
after things
which make
for peace,
and things
whereby we
may edify
one another.



John 8:32
And ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

October
14
2018

“HEAR YE HIM”

by Jim Stauffer

Matt. 17:5 While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

One of the most definitive verses in all of Scripture when listened to tells us the ideas of men cannot please God, but rather the authorized word of His Son.

Many people in our day and age fail to understand the revelation of God in the Bible is the Holy Spirit revealing the mind of God to man. Paul says it is the Spirit of either man and God that can reveal the thoughts of that individual (**1 Cor. 2:10,11**). Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit to do just that. **John 16:13** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you.* This eliminates the need to check our Bibles to see if it is written in red. Those are only the words Jesus spoke while He lived on the earth. The entire New Testament is what Jesus authorized the Holy Spirit to reveal after He had ascended into heaven.

In our text God speaks from heaven to warn Peter he must withhold his words and thoughts while he listens to the words of God's Son, Jesus.

What then is the result when we hear Christ? The result is we honor the covenant He mediated by obeying Him and that leads to our salvation (**Heb. 5:8,9**). It means we forsake the *precepts of men* in honor of the word of Christ (**Mat. 15:9**). We accept His teaching or doctrine in order to be pleasing to Him.

2 John 9 *Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.*

That is the picture Scripture paints of the one who

has chosen to, *Hear ye Him.*

It is therefore more important to the faithful child of God to accept the message of the Bible than the ideas men have conjured over the years.

Every generation of man has had ideas he thinks would improve service to God. There were those who thought instrumental music in worship would improve the sound of the music and thus please God. There was the generation that thought preaching the gospel would be more effective with a Missionary Society, than the plan God had for each person to communicate his own conviction and conversion to others to help them understand the gospel of Christ and its impact on the soul of man. There have been those who decided it would be more efficient if we used outside institutions to handle the needs of the poor. Further they have expanded the role God gave the church in this regard and failed to listen to His Son as He revealed God's plan. In all such cases we are drawn to the words of Samuel as he spoke to King Saul who had put his own ideas in the place of God's. You will recall Saul had not kept the commandment of God to *utterly destroy the Amalekites*. He brought back the best of the animals and King Agag himself. *And Samuel said, Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from being king. (1Sam. 15:22,23)*

So, when God requests the melody of our hearts as His selected instrument in our song worship to Him He is pleased when we offer that rather than trying to make it sound better to our own ears. How hard is that to understand (**Eph. 5:19**)? When He chooses for each individual to be a communicator of the gospel to others, that is what pleases Him (**Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 8:4**). When He tells me to love my neighbor as myself and

therefore, care for him when he is in need, He is not pleased when I suggest I can improve on that with an organization which can reach far and wide and produce large sums of money to spend as some others see fit (**Jas. 1:27**). When He specifies the local church is to be overseen by men qualified to be elders (a plurality is demanded by Scripture) He is not pleased when we alter the organization of the church to have one man with this authority and call him the Pastor. He is not pleased with a set up of Bishops, Cardinals and a Pope, each overseeing more than the congregation among them (**1 Tim. 3; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1,2**). And each of these levels of authority in the church is not mentioned in Scripture.

What the world calls the church is so foreign to what the Bible calls the church it is not even recognizable by the one who gives attention to the Scriptures. And to say God is not pleased with such apostasy, is an understatement.

Brethren, many today have drifted from the pattern given in Scripture and have done so believing there is no real need to support what they practice before Him by His word. They, like the apostle Peter in **Matthew 17** need to, *Hear ye Him!*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

"The organization of the New Testament church is simple, not complex. It is the local church with elders, deacons, and members. No other organization is known in the New Testament.

The local church with elders and deacons is a complete and perfect organization through which to do everything God has commanded the church *as such* to do. It, therefore, follows that any organization larger than or smaller than the local church, designed to do the work of the church, is an infringement upon the divine arrangement and is unscriptural. The truth of this principle is so evident as not to require proof to one who is familiar with New Testament teaching." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *Gospel Advocate*, May 13, 1931).

The church of Jesus Christ is a divine institution with a divine purpose, A failure to respect this fact introduces human wisdom and authority into the work of the church, thus perverting the mission the Lord has given to His people. It was and is God's plan that men might be gathered together in one body, the church; the existence of the church is the result of the wisdom and planning of God (**Eph. 3:8-10**). At one time but only for a time did God's wisdom remain a mystery (**Eph. 3:9**). In the fullness of time (**Gal. 4:4**), the revelation of the mystery was made known; the plan from all eternity culminated in God's Son coming to this earth, gathering all to Him who seek only the divine way.

Just as the beauty and strength of a great building exhibits the wisdom of the architect, the church of Jesus Christ evidences in its nature and existence the wisdom of God who planned it. **Ephesians 3:10** says: *"to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly (places) might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God"* God gave Noah a pattern for building the ark (**Gen. 6**). He also gave strict instructions for the building of the tabernacle (**Ex.25**). When ancient Israel departed from the divine way, their apostasy brought spiritual ruin (**Acts 7:37-42**). This pattern principle is applied to the church. The church was foreshadowed by the building of the tabernacle (**Heb. 8:1-5**); whatever the Lord *"pitches"* men must be satisfied with. Attempts to improve upon the wisdom of the ages brings man in direct conflict with the Lord.

Randy Harshbarger

The Church Must Take a Stand!

If I ever found a perfect church I could never be a part of it! I would ruin the church by being there because I am not, not by a long shot in my wildest dreams, anywhere near perfect. There are no perfect churches; not here in El Dorado, not in Kansas, not in the USA nor indeed, anywhere in the world. They don't exist. There are only imperfect churches made up of imperfect people who do their best to obey the word of the Lord. No congregation exemplifies this better than the church in Corinth. No congregation in scripture had more problems than this one. Paul knew them well, reminds them of their former sins in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** and still calls them God's people because they had repented. Good news for us!

In the chapter previous Paul had reprimanded them for tolerating in their assemblies a member who was involved in fornication (sex of any kind outside of the heterosexual marriage bond). Read the whole chapter. It's only 13 verses. Paul points out that we have no right to expect righteous behavior from the world (**verses 9-11**) but we have the right, yes, and the obligation to expect it of those who claim to be Christians. He ends the chapter by giving the Corinthian Christians the command, *"For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES."* (**1Corinthians 5:12f**) There is no defense in the idea that we are not to judge one another for here is a command to do just that and no church which refuses to obey this command can possibly be the New Testament Church.

Cleveland Reddinger

SAFE

Safe” is a precious word whether you are playing baseball or living life. We look at our chaotic and unjust world and we want “safety!” We look at the weakness of our bodies and the uncertainty of our future and we want “safety!”

Please know that our desire for safety is healthy. God made our hearts to long for safety, so we might find it in Him. When we pursue safety correctly it makes us stronger people and brings us closer to God.

For example, Paul felt safe in a Roman prison with an executioner looming in the shadows because he knew, *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom”* (2 Tim. 4:18).

David slept safely surrounded by enemies because he knew, *“In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety”* (Psalm 4:8).

Where can we find this ability to sleep sweetly during the scary circumstances of life?

Before we tromp off in search of safety we need to be aware of some dead-ends! You see, the devil also knows of our desire for safety and uses it to lure us down his well-worn paths to despair.

One of the most commonly traveled paths to security is possessions. After all, we call our financial investments, “securities!” All the signs on this path say, *“If you have enough your future is secure.”*

We comfortably think, “That is not us!” Yet, if you had the choice today between receiving ten million dollars or growing more into the character of Christ, which one would make you feel more confident about your future? Perhaps we find our safety in possessions more than we realize.

Jesus told a story about a man who reached the pinnacle of his profession with a fully funded retirement. The man said himself, *“Soul, you have enough goods laid up for many years, relax!”* It is every worker’s dream! Have enough stuff and you can finally relax in the sun. However, one small phrase from God eclipsed the man’s dream and sent him into eternal darkness, *“Fool! This night your soul is required”* (Luke 12:15-21).

Don’t believe the propaganda, possessions do not provide lasting security (Poverty-stricken Lazarus was more secure than the Rich Man, **Luke 16:19-31**). In truth, possessions quickly fall apart and tend to make us selfish (**Matt. 6:19; 1 Tim. 6:9-10**). Laying up your treasures in heaven is where true security is found.

Others believe the adage, *“There is safety in numbers.”* That is why there is a constant desire to be popular, to be a part of a movement, and to fit in. It makes us feel “safe” to be a part of a crowd.

It is a desire to belong to something big that led the people of Babel to build a city for their own glory and security, but they were not secure from God (**Gen. 11**)! God wants people like Abraham who go out live like sojourners in the world (**Gen. 12; 1 Pet. 1:11-12**).

The clear testimony of Scripture is that God’s people are often few (**Matt. 7:13-14; 22:14**). We are setting ourselves and our children up for failure when we measure our faith in terms of numbers! Well-meaning parents try to help their children by saying, “Look at how many young people believe like you do.” Christians and churches validate their faith by pointing to how many people attend their events, support their causes and follow their media.

Is God impressed by our numbers? Candidly, if we find our security by being a part of a crowd we will always compromise our faith (**John 12:42**)! We must watch our hunger for crowds for false religion will always be more popular than *“picking up your cross and following Jesus.”* There is no safety in numbers!

True safety requires walking down a path that is rarely traveled. The One who blazed the trail overcame all the fears that overwhelm us. He had no earthly riches, his closest friends abandoned him, and his enemies killed him. Yet, there wasn’t a moment he wasn’t perfectly safe. Now he shares his safety with us (**John 14:27; 16:33**).

This security begins by knowing how much you are loved by God. The number of your friends may swell or shrink, but his love is steadfast and secure. Paul had you in mind when he wrote, *“God who is rich in mercy because of the great love with which he has loved us... made us alive together with Christ... and seated us with him in heavenly places”* (**Eph. 2:4-6**). Your life can’t be more secure (**John 10:27-28**)!

So, dear friend, ***dare to hope in God***. Ask yourself, as David did, *“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall praise him again”* (**Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5**). He preserves you from evil, provides for your needs, and guards you from overwhelming trial. Dare to trust him with your safety (**Psalm 121:7**). In the end, He alone can preserve your soul.

Safely anchored to his loving care, you are ***free to live for God***. Every prized possession is destined to be destroyed with the world. Only the things we do for the Lord will last. So, *“be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”* (**1 Cor. 15:58**). Life is not about finding the best things for me! That is the path to insecurity. Life is about doing the things that honor the Lord. Those things last eternally.

I wish I could make all your anxieties about your future disappear!

The future is a scary place to live in the present. Our sinful minds are adept at imagining the worst possible outcomes. However, God knows our future and sees nothing that is too great for his love and power toward us. So, tell your soul, *“Hope in God.”* You are safe.

Tim Jennings; timj.theway@hotmail.com

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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PERSECUTION TESTS THE HEART



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10