

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.

**March**

**5**

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## **“I HAVE ONLY QUOTED THE SCRIPTURES”**

by Earl Kimbrough (edited)

In his trial for heresy, held at the Popular Creek Baptist Church in Limestone County, Alabama soon after the Civil War, R. W. Officer was questioned about his teaching on baptism. He was suspected by his fellow Baptist preachers of advocating what they called "Campbellism." Dr. J. R. Graves, the influential editor of the Tennessee Baptist, had been called in to lead the examination of Officer in an effort to expose the heresy of their unorthodox brother. The part of the trial that involved baptism proceeded as follows:

**Graves:** "I have been informed that you make baptism a condition of pardon; in other words, you teach water salvation. When is the sinner pardoned?"

**Officer:** "Paul says the sinner is freed from sin when he obeys from the heart that form of doctrine delivered him. (Rom. 6:17,19) *'Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.'* I take it that we rise from the waters of baptism to walk *'in newness of life.'* (Rom. 6:1-5)."

**Graves:** "But what will you do with what Paul says in his letter to the Galatians: *'Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus'* (Gal. 3:26)."

**Officer:** "I will do with that just what I have done with the rest of the sentence - viz., believe it. It reads: *'For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.'* (Gal. 3:27)."

**Graves:** "But what does that mean?"

**Officer:** "It means just what it says."

**Graves:** "What do you believe are the conditions of pardon or remission?"

**Officer:** "I believe just what the Bible says on the subject."

**Graves:** "But what is your interpretation of what the Bible says on the subject?"

**Officer:** "I suppose I have no interpretation of the Bible on any subject."

**Graves:** "But you have; all denominations have their interpretations of the Bible. We, as Baptists, teach that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ secures pardon. What do you think about that?"

**Officer:** "The Bible says: *'Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God'* (Jno. 3:5). *'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved'* (Mk. 16:16). To believers, Peter said: *'Repent, and be baptized...for the remission of sins.'* (Acts 2:38)."

**Graves:** "We all believe the Bible as strong as you do. Tell us what your interpretation of the texts you have quoted is. That is what we want to get at."

**Officer:** "My interpretation is exactly what I have quoted, in other words, I have no interpretation of it. I simply believe it, just as it is written."

**Graves:** "Do we understand you to say that all who are not baptized will go to hell, are eternally lost?"

**Officer:** "I did not say so."

**Graves:** "But the quotations you have made lead us to believe that is your opinion."

**Officer:** "I have only quoted the Scriptures."

**Graves:** "But do you or do you not believe that the unbaptized will all be lost in hell forever?...Do you believe these pious unbaptized people (Methodists and Presbyterians, E.K.) will all go to hell? Answer yes or no."

**Officer:** "Yes or No."

**Graves:** "Which do you say? Let us not have any foolishness about it. Do you believe the unbaptized will go to hell?"

**Officer:** "My faith is not in the direction of hell. I am not well posted on that end of the road."

**Graves:** "The brethren want to know where you stand."

**Officer:** "Faith, repentance, and baptism are conditions which belong to time and look to the remission of sins of the past. Love that never fails is the eternal condition which looks to the new life and everlasting salvation and happiness."

**Graves:** "Then you do not believe that baptism is a condition in order to salvation?"

**Officer:** "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,*" looks to salvation from sins of the past, doesn't it? If it were salvation in heaven, all would rise from the waters of baptism into heaven, and enjoy eternal life."

## Ignorance is not Bliss

*"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (Eph. 5:17). When we come to the Lord, we come as disciples, wanting to learn and grow in grace in knowledge. Thankfully, the Lord knows our shortcomings (Heb. 5:2) and has compassion, because we can all be a little slow from time to time...

A now-famous science fair experiment that tested anti-technology sentiments and associated chemical-phobias, was conducted in 1997 by Nathan Zohner, a 14-year-old student at Eagle Rock Junior High School in Idaho. He invited people to sign a petition that demanded either strict control of, or a total ban on, dihydrogen monoxide. He listed some of the odious properties of this colorless and odorless substance:

- It is a major component of acid rain.
- It eventually dissolves almost anything it comes in contact with.
- It can kill if accidentally inhaled.
- It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
- It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients. Forty-three out of fifty people approached by Zohner signed the petition, six were undecided, and one was a great supporter of dihydrogen monoxide and refused to sign. Yes, 86 per cent, with another 12 percent undecided, voted to ban water (H<sub>2</sub>O) from the environment.

We have all been equally as silly, and even worse, for we have all sinned (Rom. 3:23). Let us be humble and grow with the Lord (1 Cor. 3:18), sowing the seed and sprinkling a little of that dihydrogen monoxide along the way.

*25th Street Bulletin*

## THE SCRIPTURES ARE OUR GUIDE

*Bill Hall*

Two different views exist as to how one comes to a knowledge of God's will. The first view is that one comes to this knowledge by carefully reading and understanding the scriptures; that Jesus promised His **apostles** that they would be led into all **truth** by the Spirit (John 14:26; 16:13); that they, along with other inspired men, wrote that truth in the **scriptures**; that when we read what they wrote, we many "*understand (their) knowledge in the mystery of Christ*" (Ephesians 3:3,4); that the scriptures, consequently, are an all-sufficient guide from earth to heaven.

The second view is that each child of God is led in some direct way by the Spirit in understanding God's will. People are often heard to say, "God is leading me into this understanding," or "in this way," and in saying this they mean that He is leading them through some direct guidance. While they do not disregard the scriptures altogether, they feel that they are led in some additional way into an understanding of God's will., applying John 14:26 and John 16:13 to every "believer."

This writer confesses to holding the first view and would ask those who hold the second view the following questions.

(1) If, indeed, all believers are led directly into an understanding of God's will, why was it necessary for the first converts to continue *steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine* (Acts 2:42)? Would they not have had the same understanding of God's will as the apostles had?

(2) How do you explain the differences in doctrine and practice that exist among those who claim to be led into their understanding directly by the Lord? Differences about among those who claim direct guidance, while the scriptures teach only "*one faith*" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Is the Lord really leading all these people into conflicting ideas? Is He the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33)?

(3) If you could accurately communicate to me - either orally or in writing - this understanding into which

you have been led, could I place as much confidence in it as I do in the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, etc? Could I continue steadfastly in your teaching as the early Christians did in the apostles' teaching? If so, how would I know to continue steadfastly in your teaching rather than in the teaching of some person whose understanding conflicts with yours? With all these conflicts, would we not have to go back to the Bible to know what was right? And wouldn't that, in reality, take us to the first view stated in this article, which I already accept?

The truth is - the scriptures are God's divine truth (**John 17:17**). One can read and understand them (**Ephesians 3:3,4**). They are all-sufficient as a guide from earth to heaven (**2 Timothy 3:16,17**). They will provide the basis for our judgment in the last day (**John 12:48**). Read them carefully and obey them in love.

## THE REVELATION OF A MIND

In cartoons we use the bubble over one's head to place the words he is thinking and supposedly speaking. That picture reveals the thoughts of the character in the story. At the same time it reveals his thoughts to us as we read, it also eliminates any other idea we might have of what he could or should think or say in that situation. That is the beauty of revelation. It exposes the thought so it can be understood by those who observe.

The apostle Paul tells us about the revelation of God's mind to mankind, the scriptures spoken to the apostles by the Holy Spirit. He refers to it as God's wisdom which God ordained before He created the world. He continues by saying this revelation or making known the mind of God was designed for those who love God. He then explains it is the Spirit of God Who is revealing these things to these apostles because only the spirit of a being knows the mind of that being. Paul further states the Holy Spirit revealed this message in the exact spiritual words God has chosen (**1 Cor. 2:6-13**). This, my friends eliminates any need for us to determine what is meant. It is spoken clearly so we can understand it as Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 3:1-4**.

Here is how Peter describes this same revelation. *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* (**2 Peter 1:20-21**) Therefore, we have no need to interpret the scriptures. We simply need to read and study until we understand them so we can live and teach them accurately.

It is amazing how easily it is to agree on what the Bible teaches when all we consult is the Bible. The problem with understanding the Bible begins when men begin to interpret it. All of us come from differing backgrounds with various influences. Until we check those influences at the door, we cannot and will not understand what God has spoken.

Those influences lead some to say we are saved by faith alone, even while the scriptures say otherwise. *Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.* (**James 2:24**) Those influences have led men to teach folks they are baptized when they have only had water sprinkled on them even though scripture describes baptism as a burial and the very word baptize means to immerse, submerge one. Paul describes baptism this way to the Colossians, *in whom ye were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.* (**Colossians 2:11-12**)

Many other religious practices exist in our religious world today as a result of someone's private interpretation of scripture. We must, if we are to revere His word and please Him in all things, honor the ability of His word to make us complete in all things. *Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.* (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

**Jim Stauffer**

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***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

***And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.*** (**Mark 16:15-16**)

**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.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

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**

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

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### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Matt Bassford, Wayne Moody, David and Joanne Beckley, Ken Kling, Mark Walker, Pat McLoud, Jan Patrick is at Nottingham in Olathe. Jordan Shouse and Freda Walker.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning

**James** - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening

**Joshua, Judges, Ruth**

Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon: "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out"



## **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