

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Feb. 13, 2011



BUILDING HEARTS FOR GOD



A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps (Prov. 16:9).

BUILDING HEARTS FOR GOD with the two sermons:

AM: "To Whom Does Your Heart Belong?"

PM: "Blessed Are The Pure In Heart".

QUESTIONS FROM THE BACK OF MY BUSINESS CARD PART 2

"Is the Bible really from God?" That is the next question to be answered. The evidence to answer this question could outnumber the publishing of this bulletin for the next two months. For this question, I would like us to consider our answer in a writing belonging to the late Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

THE BIBLE: GOD'S DIVINE REVELATION

by Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

The present trend toward modernism is discernible in the emphasis that our school men are putting on philosophy. But philosophy is the product of human reasoning and therefore is no more infallible than the minds of men. Yet philosophy is being accepted as final and regarded more authoritative than revelation. When men will not accept the record of divine revelation unless it can be confirmed by philosophy, they are not men of faith — they are modernists.

Proof that the Bible is divine revelation and therefore infallible is not meager and scant — it is manifold and sufficient, both intrinsic and extrinsic in genius. The first exists in the character of the content of the Bible, and the second in the demands of man's nature.

The Need Of Revelation

The very nature of man requires it. First, as a dying creature, unlike the animal, he possesses a love of life and dread of death. He is dissatisfied with the thought of being born to die — with being brought into the world to begin to die the moment that he begins to live.

In his nature, there is a longing for a destiny beyond the limits of life here, a yearning for the revelation of his origin and destiny. His nature demands a destiny. The Bible is the only book that answers his longing and reveals his...destiny. It is therefore the only book that meets the demands of man's nature.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

VISITORS, WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

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PREACHER

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Second, as a worshipping being, his desire to worship demands an object of worship, which of necessity must be a superhuman object. But the inability of man to create renders it impossible for him to make or imagine such an ideal. The true object of his worship must therefore be revealed. The Bible is the only book that reveals the object of man's worship.

Third, as a rational being, all but destitute of instinct, he is unable to supply his own wants. His reason, affection, and conscience, lifting him above the creature of automatic instinct, demand a revealed religion in acquired language. Being a universal creature, to obviate prejudice, this revealed religion must be non-sectional and international, overcoming sectional distinctions, and such is the revealed religion of the Bible.

The Character Of The Bible

Further proof that the Bible is direct divine revelation is discoverable in the character of its contents. First, in unique composition its pronouncements are profound, yet in the whole of its presentation its style is simple, and its lessons and duties are understandable. It is the longest line of thought woven in the loom of time, yet expressed in clear and easy words which translation does not weaken, proving it to be unlike other books, and certifying that it is superhuman, and demonstrating it to be the book from above.

Second, in its divine impartiality, unlike human books, it exposes the weaknesses in the lives of its characters and records the mistakes and misdeeds of its heroes. Adam sinned and was expelled from his primeval home. Noah's intoxication is related with all of its repulsion. David's transgression was revealed as an orgy of lust, and Peter's denial is mentioned as a trait of cowardice. Where is there a book of man like it? Let infidels account for the truthful impartiality of the Bible on mere human grounds of authorship.

Third, in its proffered rewards and threatened punishments revelation is written in every line, for man could not propose blessings or punishments higher than his imagination, nor write of the future longer than he himself could see enforced. The duration of rewards and punishments being eternal, man could not have conceived such. The teaching of the Bible concerning eternity projects man farther and deeper into the future than his imagination could invent or his mind could conceive.

Fourth, in the vast quantity of its varied contents there are no conflicts. With no apparent effort on the part of its authors to avoid contradictions, there are none; but it does not propose to harmonize those which man fancies to discover; there being none in it, the discrepancies vanish in the light of all the facts. The fact that its authors were separated by time, clime, and language, with no knowledge of each other, yet were agreed in all that is written, proves that the Bible is not the work of men.

Fifth, in its demands on the individual, the Bible claims the hearts, lives, and reverence of all men of all generations, with no apology for the demand. The most inspiring of all human philosophers could never have dreamed of such a thing. Man did not write the Bible. It is the book of a universal and an eternal God.

The Value Of Testimony

The character of witnesses, in evidence on questions involving integrity and veracity, determines the value of testimony. Of first consideration on this point is the life of Jesus. He lived in toil and sacrifice and taught His disciples to do the same. Note the passages: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth"; and, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth"; and, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." Could a mere man hope for such from his followers? Could any human teacher expect ready recruits from such appeals, offering only affliction and reproach? The history of the world does not record such. But the honesty of such demands was absolute and cannot be discredited.

As a second consideration, there is the test of purity. The purity of life required of the followers of Jesus is a basic evidence. Miracles attest the fact of Christianity, but morals are the profession of it. Mohammed...

...cared nothing for the appraisal of his subjects as to his moral character and made no demands as to their own. That alone marks him as a pretender. Christ demands purity to the point that there can be no fellowship with Him without it. The like of it cannot be found in history.

A third consideration is yet found in the test of veracity. Some who acknowledge the purity of Jesus, deny His claims of divinity and Deity. They are inconsistent. If He was not divine, He was an imposter. There is no such thing as Jesus being a good man if His claims were false. But His life and teaching are the credentials of His divinity. Take His teaching on eternity — the promise of happiness after a life of toil, and glory after suffering — where is there a sane man who would spend his life, all of his days, in toil and privation for the vain hope of glory after he died?

A fourth and final test in the sincerity of His witnesses is their inflexible zeal, coupled with their virtues, and their willingness to die. This could not have been founded on fraud and deception. They could have renounced it all and lived. What they taught was true, affirmed by life and confirmed by death. Imposter Joe Smith and his brother Hiram fought to live when the mob came and died fighting with pistols to escape assassination. Compare theirs with the death of Jesus and the martyrdom of Christians. Man did not write the Bible, and its religion is of God.

The Bible Is Not A Fable

Christianity is a myth, Jesus a fake, and the Bible a fable? Its first writer, Moses himself, begins the Bible, not with the story of his own life, but of creation; and instead of taking the glory for his own age of time, he ascribed it to 2,500 years before, and passes over the 1,500 years of his own generations to the future and everlasting age to come. That is not a human spirit.

As for Jesus, the influence of His life and teaching have increased with the passing of the centuries. The birth of Jesus reversed the calendar of the world, and the time of it is imprinted on every letter that men

write, on every deed and abstract and legal document that men record in every government on earth, and is inscribed on the monument that marks the head of every man's grave.

Why all this if there's nothing to it, if Christ is a fraud and the Bible is a fable? If the Bible is a mere fable, why do infidels single it out and seek its destruction? There are thousands of fables in the land, and they let them pass. Why not let the Bible pass, if it is just another fable? Why do they oppose it? Ah, the Book will not let them alone! It condemns them at every turn. Their spirits cannot rest. It follows them by day and haunts them by night. It is before them when they rise up, and it is there when they lie down. They rant and they rave, they scoff and they scowl, but they feel afraid.

The system of religion revealed in the Bible is the only reliable religion. No other will answer the demand for the knowledge of the origin and the history and the destiny of man.

It is not reasonable that God — even if He were called Nature — could overlook the revelation of things of such stupendous importance, but expose matters of far less moment. There is but one conclusion: The Bible is the revelation of the Eternal God of the universe.

Sermon Review

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

(Matthew 5:7)

- I. GIVING FORGIVENESS
- II. RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

THE WISDOM OF GOD

(Proverbs 8)

- I. WISDOM'S CRY (1-5).
- II. WISDOM'S COUNSEL (6-9).
- III. WISDOM'S COST (10-12).
- IV. WISDOM'S CONTROL (13-16).
- V. WISDOM'S COMPENSATION (17-21).
- VI. WISDOM'S CONTINUATION (22-26).
- VII. WISDOM'S CREATION (27-29).
- VIII. WISDOM'S COMPANION (30-31).
- IX. WISDOM'S COMMANDMENT (32-33).
- X. WISDOM'S CONCLUSION (34-36).

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Jane Sowell had tubes put in her ears and her adenoids removed Tuesday. Let us pray for a speedy recovery and that this procedure has eliminated her complications.

Betty Tuggle; Elizabeth Baker

Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes--Tim, Rachel & Titus need our prayers as they get started and seek support for their full-time mission work, which is overseen by Coldwater.

Tim & Lynn Wilkes working in Hawaii with the Fishers of Men program. We are thankful that they are back in Mississippi with us for two weeks!

Family & Friends

David Bragg--father of a friend to Clifton. He had to step down from pulpit preaching several years ago because of Multiple Sclerosis. We sent him a card recently.

Bob Spurlin--suffers from MS and had to stop pulpit work many years ago. He has written and recorded material to encourage those that suffer.

Doyce "Doc" Hunt--Jared Browns grandfather.

Brianna Edwards had a tumor removed from her brain stem. She is recovering well, having to re-learn many things. She is the 12-year daughter of a co-worker of Ginger Bayless.

Joe Culbreath--several serious health issues.

James Angel--His cancer is in remission. He may still have a tumor.

Ann Embrey; Dunn Family; Steve Angel;; Dave Leonard, Sr.

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.

February Birthdays

Jackson Staten	2/11
Sydney Thompson	2/11
Terry Bland	2/12
Ashby Johnson	2/13
Eric Jackson	2/14
Tyler Holmes	2/16
Cathy Thompson	2/21
Betty Tuggle	2/25

Get Involved!

Young At Heart Valentine's Lunch

Today, Feb. 13, after AM services, the youth will serve lunch to our elder members.

Grief Seminar @ Independence

February 19 & 20 - Keith Mosher, Sr.

Sunday Night for the Savior

March 6 after PM service.

45th MSOP Lectureship: March 27-31

Clifton's New Cell Phone Number:

(662) 403-9699

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, February 6

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Wiley Tuggle
Announcements	Caleb Baker
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jason Bayless
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Payton Jackson
Opening Prayer	Billy Bland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Johnny Bayless

Evening

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Jeremy Moore
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Payton Jackson
Closing Prayer	Jerry Davis

Wednesday, February 9

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Adam Sowell
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Shane Staten