

Our Prayer List

- ◆ Sarah Adams
- ◆ Dawn Copes
- ◆ Bill Cyrus
- ◆ Dottie Daniels
- ◆ Jackie Eubank
- ◆ Tom & LaVonne Haines
- ◆ Keith Hodges
- ◆ Beulah Keppler
- ◆ Bob Meiers
- ◆ Gaylin Miller
- ◆ Mike Miller
- ◆ Janice Ortman
- ◆ Hallie & Don Phillips
- ◆ Jewel Price
- ◆ Barbra Purvis
- ◆ Carol Waterman
- ◆ Katie Wood
- ◆ Tim Windhorst
- ◆ Shirley Young
- ◆ Geco "Hannah's Aunt"

Health

Encouragement

- ◆ Don Craig
- ◆ Aaron Miller

Order of Service

Morning

Song Leader	David Craig
Prayer	Charlie Bryson
Table	Bob Whitaker
Assist	Jerry Witt
Assist	Bob Calvert
Assist	Arnold Miller
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Don Craig

Evening

Song Leader	Bob Whitaker
Prayer	Eric Whitaker
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Jerry Witt

From Ogden Biblical Recourses
Thought for the Day, www.aogden.com

Seven days without prayer makes one weak



This Morning Sermon

“Salt of the Earth”

(Matt 5:13) “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

Memory Verse

Let us work on expanding our knowledge and memory of the scriptures.

(Mark 9:50) “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.”

were more successful when they were “encouraged to be especially resilient and not to give up because they had reverted to the old habits.” (http://www.quirkology.com/UK/Experiment_resolution.shtml)

This idea of success ought to carry over to us that are children of God, both for man or woman. Our resolution this year ought to be to continue our walk and live our lives as faithful children of God and live according to His will. Our resolution ought to be that we are going to live better than we did this past year. We can all keep this resolution. We just need to remember that when we slip up that we need to get back up and continue our walk.

Paul teaches us, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:13-14) Many times in our trying to achieve goals we become discouraged by our own shortcomings. We may fall in our race of life, but we truly fail when we decide not to get back up and continue. Let us follow after the example of Paul. He said that he was forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. This, too, we need to do. When you stumble and fall, shake it off! Get back up through repentance and continue your walk with God. We must remember that if we were able to be perfect then there would have been no need for the Son of God to die for our sins!

John tells us, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellow-

ship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:7-10)

Notice the word ‘walk’. This word is a word that requires a continuing action. If you walk in the light, then you are continuing in the light. If we continue in the light then the blood of Jesus cleans us from all sins. This is what some people don’t get. It is not because our every step is perfectly sinless, because it’s not! We do sin, but as John says, if we confess our sins, that is acknowledge that we do sin and repent of them, he is faithful and just to forgive us of those sins. This is the very reason why we all can keep this resolution. It doesn’t require perfection within ourselves, but requires perfection through Jesus Christ. It is Christ that

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makes us perfect, and not our own selves. It just requires our continuing, our growing in the faith, and if you can continue then you can keep this resolution and one day gain the prize of eternal life.

If you have not made this resolution, let me encourage you to do so. Be obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and live the life of a Christian. In doing so, you can also have hope of eternal life when this life is finished and there is no more new year to begin.

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God uses prophecy and history to prove his Book. Prophecy is not meant for interpretation. It was meant for fulfillment, and in its fulfillment the apostolic avowal that "we have not followed cunningly devised fables, . . . but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," is shown to be true. There are literally scores of Old Testament prophecies which history has so obviously fulfilled that one who would deny it is at once convicted of ignorance or stupidity. The rise and fall of earthly kingdoms and the desolation of ancient cities; history of certain nations written before those nations existed, and their destiny with detailed accuracy definitely forecast; the names of men chronicled a century before they were born, and their lives and fortunes with unerring prediction depicted. They are too numerous to list in limited space. But the study of fulfilled prophecy will bring the truth-seeker in amazement to the inevitable and only conclusion that "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

III. Progress. The material and social progress of the world can be attributed only to the influence of Christianity, and, hence, proves the divinity of its character. Materially, an improved civilization, with homes, schools, business, and all that forms a part of an enlightened community, is directly traceable to the influence of Christianity. Socially, the Sermon on the Mount "put philanthropy into the heart of the world." Our hospitals, orphanages, and asylums are the result. Not even the Jews ever had such. And who ever heard of the philanthropy of atheism!

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

IV. Triumph. The triumph of the church over all opposition proves its inherent power and divinity. Prejudice, superstitions, philosophies, learning, wealth, politics, pride, pomp, and power were all pitted against it. "The fires of persecution were kindled. The sword was unsheathed and bathed in the blood of its victims. But all opposition was vain. Its subjects increased; its boundaries enlarged; and in less than three centuries Christianity had not only conquered Rome, but had converted Rome's citizens and enlisted her rulers. In A.D. 312 Constantine became a vassal of the King of kings, and in A.D. 384 the Roman Senate abolished paganism and made Christianity the religion of the State."

V. Monuments. The imperishable monuments of Christianity are the climax of all proof and evidence that it is not of man. The birth of Christ reversed the calendar of the world and has made Christianity a fixed truth in the heart of the world. The Lord's Supper is a simple institution, composed of material elements that "perish with the using," yet a monument that endures the centuries, and which is as real and full of meaning, devotion, promise, and hope as when first observed in the memorable upper room on that eventful night two thousand years ago!

Christ an impostor, his disciples deceivers, the Bible a falsehood, and Christianity a farce? Then give the world more impostors, deceivers, falsehoods, and farces!

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"...in less than three centuries Christianity had not only conquered Rome, but had converted Rome's citizens and enlisted her rulers"

WORDS FROM THE PAST

"The Divine Origin of Christianity"

By: Foy E. Wallace Jr.

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, . . . but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."-(2 Pet. 1:16-21.)

The existence of Christianity is a near proof of its divinity, and its prevalence is a baffling fact to all who would deny its superhuman origin. It is an existing reality. If it is human, how account for it? If it is divine, what are the proofs of it?



We believe the evidences of its divinity are abundant and convincing, and submit here a few among the many lines of proofs which may be adduced to support its claims.

Consideration is here directed to five words which form an impregnable defense of Christianity.

I. Revelation. Christianity is a revealed religion. (1 Cor. 2: 10-13.) It is coextensive with the Bible in claim and in proof. If the Bible is inspired, Christianity is divine. Sustain one and you prove

the other. Both are of divine origin. The following facts will serve to introduce the line of evidence on the divine authorship of the Bible: First, the unity and harmony of its teaching; second, the united simplicity and incomprehensibility of its contents; third, its superior code of morals and ethics; fourth, its ameliorating influences upon society.

If the Bible is untrue and Christianity is false, then we have the anomaly of two lies having done more for the world and humanity than all the so-called "scientific truth" put together!

II. Prophecy. We share the conviction that "no uninspired man can accurately interpret unfulfilled prophecy." Yet fulfilled prophecy is an important witness to the superhuman authorship of the Bible.

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Simply Christians

By: Gene Taylor

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that "Christianity" is not relevant today. We believe they have made that decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of

Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God's word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New (Jer. 31:31-33; Gal. 3:19, 23-24). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ there existed no denominational

organizations whatever. All began at a later time. In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God's grace. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, the church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17, 28; I Pet. 5:1-3). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is (Eph. 1:22-23).

Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only a cause of division.

Their worship was something in which to participate, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29), they would all sing (Eph. 5:19), they would all pray with various ones leading (1 Cor. 14:15-16), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity (1 Cor. 16:1-2). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (2 Cor. 9:6-7). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest (Rev. 1:5-6). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. With-

out organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time (Col. 1:23). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Pet. 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony, rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him contrite obedience (2 Sam. 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God's power to save (Rom. 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, "Oh, if only such could be today." But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live.

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization, they are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with all the world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us.

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CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

Announcements

Birthdays this month:

Bob Whitaker	5
Bea Brown	8
Caleb Whitaker	16
Doug Cyrus	18
Cora Shake	22
Heidi Cyrus	28

Anniversaries this month:

No anniversaries listed

Tell an out-of-town friend to sign up for an e-Bulletin, and they can have an e-Bulletin delivered to their email inbox every week!



Check out our new online bulletin board for the congregation. On this bulletin board you can make announcements, ask for prayers, and discuss questions. You can find the bulletin board at:

www.panachurch.com/bb



Hickory Estates Singing Night will be held on January 29, 2008 at 6:30 pm.

READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE DAILY!

“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”

(Prov 18:15)

