

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Volume 19, Number 23

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

DO YOU BELIEVE, OR OCCASIONALLY AGREE?

by Bob Pulliam

There are many people in this world who would profess a faith in Jesus. But looking more closely, you will find many degrees of believing. The Muslim, for example, would tell you that he believes in Jesus. But he does not believe what the Christian must believe. The Muslim only believes that Jesus was a prophet in the same way Elijah

was a prophet. He denies that Jesus is the Son of God, and bristles at the mention of Jesus dying for the sins of the world. The Mormon and Jehovah's Witness will acknowledge a little more, but still deny that Jesus is God.

On and on we might go, but I would like to suggest that the character of faith mentioned above is not the character de-

manded of those who seek salvation in Scripture. You see, there is a difference between believing Jesus, and occasionally agreeing with Jesus. Perhaps the 'occasion' is more often than not; but it doesn't change the fact that there is a difference. Please allow me to illustrate with a few examples.

Example One...

There are many today who deny the need for authority in serving God. “*Authority* is another word for *legalism*”, they tell us. Thus, you can find them engaged in all kinds of practices foreign to the New Testament. But did Jesus address this matter?

In Matthew 21:23, Jesus was challenged concerning His authority to do and teach as He did. Those legalistic Jews! Didn't they know that authority isn't important? But when we read Jesus' answer, we do not find a rebuke of their perception of authority. In-
(Agree?, continued on pg 2...)

Be Certain that our
2014 V.B.S.
is on your calendar
“We Would See Jesus”
Ages 4 - 18
June 23 - 26 (10 - 11:30 AM)

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stead, we find Jesus upholding the need for authority by asking about the baptism of John. In fact, Jesus names the only two sources available. Don't you love multiple choice questions? They let you focus in on the truth. The truth is, there are only two sources of authority, and Jesus upheld the need to act by the proper source in asking this question.

Do you agree that we need to have authority in our religious teachings and practices today? Perhaps you only agree 99% of the time. I've heard brethren feign faithfulness while declaring that we do not need authority for all we say and do in religion. If so, then you do not agree with Jesus 100% of the time. You are

not the *believer* you pretend to be; you merely *agree* with Him most of the time.

Example Two...

Jesus also spoke of the one who "puts away" (*i.e.* divorces) his wife and marries another (Mt 5:32; 19:9). Some are telling us that the wife is "still married in the eyes of the Lord". They want us to believe she can later put him away (*i.e.* divorce) for fornication if he remarries. Jesus says he divorced her, and some say they are still married?... Hmm... Someone isn't believing something Jesus said.

These folks like to run over to Romans 7:1-4 to prove their case; but please find in the text where the man and woman are ever divorced in Paul's illustration? And even if it were there, it still does *not* say they are "still married in the eyes of God." Hmm... someone isn't believing what Paul wrote either.

And then there is the woman at the well in John 4. This woman had gone through five husbands. How many times have I heard someone say the Lord didn't recognize the present marriage because she was still married to a previous husband "in the eyes of the Lord"? Better read verse eighteen again. She *has had* five husbands. Which one of the five was she *really* married to "in the eyes of the Lord"? Must have been a plague killing 'em off every time she married, otherwise the next in line would not have been a *husband*. Or maybe they were *all* unfaithful *except* the fifth one, which invalidated the current marriage. I'll tell you the truth — this really isn't as difficult as

brethren make it! Jesus said the woman spoke the truth when she said she had no husband. She had been married five times, but currently was not married! That isn't hard to understand. She was with a man that she had not married. Jesus said she spoke truthfully, and had no husband. Do you believe? Do you agree? Or, are you too busy trying to do something doctrinally with a simple text? Perhaps you only agree with Jesus most of the time...

Example Three...

Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mk 16:16) There are many people who would not agree with that, and yet call themselves believers. Just how do you believe Jesus, but not believe *everything* He said? You can complain about the lack of baptism mentioned in the second half of the verse. Many think that to be an adequate answer. But I don't want to know what to do to be condemned. I want to know what I must do to be *saved*! Are you a believer, or an occasional agreeer?

Conclusion...

Many other topics could be touched upon if space permitted. These examples illustrate the folly of calling oneself a believer, when in fact there is unbelief present. The truth is, when we stop agreeing with Jesus 100% of the time, and stop obeying Him without question, we cease to believe and begin to occasionally agree. Let's be careful to identify ourselves properly.



THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

LUKE 10 - 12

June 8 - 10

OLD TESTAMENT READING

NUMBERS 16 - 22

June 11 - 14

I TIMOTHY 4:13

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
June 23 - 26, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Rick Moore)
July 12 - 13, 2014

Annual Singing
September 6, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)
September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Ephratha

Tonight:

Living up to a Name

If you have an announcement in the 'sick and shut-ins' section, please give Bob an update. Otherwise, it could be purged from the list. It is necessary to prune the list on a regular basis when conditions are unknown.



"Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." (Ps 95:6)

How many times does the Bible talk about people bowing, or kneeling. Many times the references are to bowing before the Lord. And, at times, they refer to bowing before the kings of the earth.

In all cases, the act has the purpose of showing a respect unto someone superior. David bowed before Saul, with his face toward the ground (I Sam 24:8). David considered Saul to be the Lord's anointed, even though he, himself, had been anointed by the Lord's prophet. He was not worshipping Saul. He was recognizing the position to which God had elevated Saul. At times, that respect is intended to be worship. This was what Solomon did as he prayed to the Lord (I Kgs 8:54). It was also what idolaters did before their idols (Jer 16:11).

I think we all agree that we should bow before the Lord, whether it is done physically, or metaphorically (bending the life before His will).

For your devotion this week, list examples of faithful and unfaithful Bible characters bowing. Classify their purposes. Then discuss our lives today, and how we would want to bow before Jesus, if He were on earth.

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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