

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Volume 19, Number 19

“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)

## GOD’S LAW OF PROCREATION

by Bob Pulliam

For the next few moments, I want us to thin about God's law of procreation in three different realms: the plant, animal, and spiritual realms. Let's begin with plant life.

As He brought all into existence, he established a law in which all living things bear fruit after their kind (Gen 1:11ff). Many may not recognize it as God's law; but they still realize that you get what you sow. If you plant corn, you'll get corn. If you plant wheat, you'll get wheat. If you plant soybeans, you'll get soybeans. Even city folk could figure out what happened if they planted tomatoes and got watermelons. Obviously they got the wrong seed, and had actually planted watermelons! Even an atheistic scientist knows that things work this way.

Now we know that this

doesn't just apply to plants. It is a law that applies to the animal kingdom as well. If you cross two elephants, you'll get an elephant. If you cross two giraffes, you'll get a giraffe. If you cross two dogs, and you get kittens, you know that someone is playing a joke on you. God's law of procreation cannot be broken. Even an atheistic scientist knows that things work this way.

There is one more realm in which God's law of procreation applies... the spiritual realm. When God set up the kingdom by Jesus, He designed a way by which procreation might take place. He ordained a process by which faith might be produced in the hearts of men; and thus fruit be borne to His own honor and glory. Although it is God's law, many in the religious world today ignore it. They will admit the first

two realms where God's law holds true, but then become worse than atheists regarding the third.

### What Does the Religious World Say?...

Before we note what God's law says, let's see what the religious world in general says of spiritual salvation, or the way God creates spiritual life. One creed says:

*“...the creature being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call...”<sup>1</sup>*

*“Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spir-*

*(Procreation, continued on pg 2...)*

<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia Confession of Faith, Article X, Number 2.

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(Procreation, continued from pg 1...)

it, yet, not being effectually drawn by the Father, they neither will nor can, truly come to Christ, and therefore cannot be saved..."<sup>2</sup>

And then of saving faith they say:

"The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word."<sup>3</sup>

Note that the overall picture is of man's total inability to believe. Man can only attain saving faith if God gives him that ability by the Spirit. It is taught that this is true

of the overall service of the Christian (Article XVI, Number 3). They teach that only by the power of the Spirit can you attain faith and faithfulness. To them, the word of God becomes nothing but an incantation that invokes the Spirit to do His supernatural work.

This obviously means that if God never gives a person the Spirit, that person is lost. Now if that person is lost because God didn't want him to be saved; then we can say that God actually wanted him to be lost! This makes God a respecter of persons in choosing some folks over others.

### What Does the Bible Say?...

The Bible tells us that God is **not** a respecter of persons. Peter stated this when He first went to the gentiles with the gospel (Acts 10:34 & 35). Paul told the Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians that this was true (Gal 2:6; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25). Peter wrote in his first epistle that this was true (I Pt 1:17).

The Bible tells us that God wants everyone to be saved. Paul told Timothy this (I Tim 2:3 & 4), and Peter affirmed it in his second epistle (II Pt 3:9). God is waiting for folks to repent! So what is God **waiting** for? Why doesn't He just go ahead and give them the Spirit? Because He doesn't want them to be saved? Then why is He waiting? The error of this doctrine, then, is obvious. Since God is **waiting** for people to repent (the point of His being patient), then it must be **their** choice to repent, or not repent!

The Bible tells us how faith is

produced in the heart of the individual. The Bible is very clear on this matter. Paul wrote, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17). If you want faith, Paul says you need the word of God. Paul also said that "God from the beginning chose you for salvation... to which He called you by our gospel..." (II Thess 2:13 & 14).

False teachers go to John 6:44 to tell us that God must directly act on the heart of the individual. But Jesus went on in the passage to tell us that this is a teaching and learning process. He said, "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." (Jn 6:45) **This is the process of procreation in the spiritual realm.**

### The Seed...

In giving the parable of the sower, Jesus told the disciples that there was a seed planted in the hearts of men to bring about faith within them. Some would be fruitful, some would be taken by Satan, some would be choked out, and some would be scorched. Jesus in explaining that parable said, "The seed is the word of God." (Lk 8:11, see also v15).

Peter told his readers that they had "been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (I Pt 1:23). Being born again does not consist of some miraculous manifestation of the Spirit in a person's life. It is found in obeying the gospel, the truth of God. We are "begotten" by the "word of truth"

(Procreation, continued on pg 3...)

**THIS WEEK'S  
DAILY BIBLE  
READINGS**

**NEW TESTAMENT  
READING**

II PETER 1 - 3

May 11 - 13

**OLD TESTAMENT  
READING**

LEVITICUS 17 - 24

May 14 - 17

**I TIMOTHY 4:13**

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, Article X, Number 4.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, Article X, Number 4.

# 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:**

Saved By What?

**Tonight:**

The Rationality of God's Word

(Procreation, *continued from pg 2...*)

(Jms 1:18). The word is "implanted" by our receiving it, and it saves our souls (Jms 1:21). How can that be? Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom 10:17). Cornelius was told to send for Peter who would speak to him **words** by which he would be saved (Acts 11:14). This is the seed that is planted, and the fruit born is salvation which is contained (promised) in that seed. How do I know I'm saved? By my faith in the word of God (the seed), and compliance with it!. I know that I will get corn when I plant corn; and I know that I will get wheat when I plant wheat. I believe in the living and abiding word of God, and I live by it. I nurture it in my heart, applying the necessary ingredients in my life to keep it there. Knowing that it can only produce that which has been ordained of God, I know that I am saved.

Many in the religious world today have a different seed in their heart without even knowing it. Feeling saved has replaced the truth of God's word. As a result, the Bible must mean what my feelings interpret it to mean. If I feel saved, then what I feel must be what the Bible means. Even though the Bible warns us about feelings, we still let them irrationally lead us about (Jer 10:23; 17:9; Prov 14:12; 28:26). And yes, we all know these passages on the heart, but don't they always seem to apply to everyone else. If you want to be God's new creation, it can only be accomplished God's way. And that way is only known by consulting His word, and consistently applying it. All of it.

Only God's word will produce a Christian. What are you? 

# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

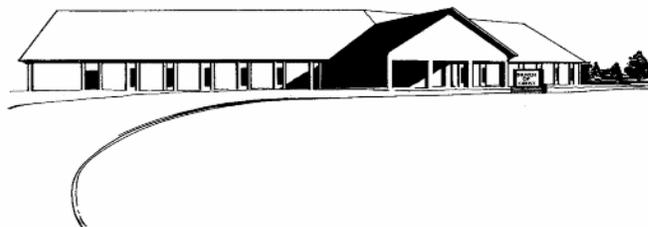
## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

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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