

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

20 September 2009
VOLUME 9; ISSUE 37

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Preaching on Fundamentals (by James W. Adams)

A number of years ago when I was a student in Freed Hardeman College, Brother Hardeman constantly warned the preacher “boys” against the tendency on the part of preachers to neglect the discussion of fundamental themes such as “The church,” “Baptism,” “The Conversion of the Eunuch,” “The Two Covenants,” and so forth. He emphasized the fact that a constant reaffirmation of the truth on these fundamental themes and others like them would keep the church strong and impervious to the insidious efforts of designing men to corrupt her and lead her into apostasy.

I have lived to see a generation of people grow up among the churches of Christ who have been nurtured on teaching of the other kind and to behold the corruption of the doctrine and practice of the church on every hand. It only requires one generation of the wrong kind of teaching to cultivate the soil for the germination and the fruition of the seed of apostasy. The thing that has caused churches of Christ to grow in the last one hundred years from a few, widely scattered, obscure, poor congregations to a great, militant, prosperous people occupying a position of dignity and influence in the world has been militant, fundamental, Bible preaching. Now, at the very height of prosperity, what has been gained through sweat and sacrifice and tears can in one generation be swallowed up through compromise in the great sea of Protestant denominationalism. What the winds and the waves of denominational opposition has not been able to do to the house of God from without through a hundred years, spiritual termites boring from within can accomplish in one generation.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Christians from the Floral Heights church of Christ will man a booth at the Burkburnet Friendship Festival this October the third 2009. We will need volunteers to man the booth (i.e., pass out invitations for Bible studies and be ready to give answers to any and all regarding the faith we hold [I Peter 3:15]). If you are interested in doing this work please sign up for a time on the chart in the foyer.

Tonight we will continue our **study over the book of Revelation**. You may pick up an overview of chapter ten in the foyer next to the bulletins.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

The gospel is still “the power of God.” Strict adherence to the gospel coupled with a militant proclamation of its fundamental teaching is our shield and sword. A congregation strictly practicing and fervently proclaiming the pure gospel is a power to be reckoned with. Through such means sinners will be saved and God’s people edified. May each member dedicate himself anew to such a program. May our “hearts burn within us” at strong, fundamental Bible preaching. May we give it our unqualified endorsement and support. Let us be neither ashamed nor afraid to “ask for the old paths and walk therein.”

Editor’s Notes:

Through the years I have put this article in the bulletin to not only remind brethren what good and solid preaching is all about but to remind myself as well. Many years ago I attended a lectureship in Pasadena Texas where the preachers took turns commenting about each other at the beginning of their lessons. At first I didn’t think much about it. The comments were sort of endearing and they playfully poked at each other. As the nights went by; however, the play on words and remarks went overboard. When a large portion of the allotted time to speak is spent on adorning other preachers with praise and playful poking then one ought to be ashamed. I actually felt embarrassed for the preacher one night during the meeting because he seemed totally unaware that he had gone overboard. Why didn’t he see that he had wasted too much time talking about nonsense?

Too much preaching today story telling. Some preachers seem more like stand up comedians than souls stirring messengers of truth. My own personal motto through the past several years is, “stick to the text!” Textual Bible studies and preaching is what the church needs to hear even at the expense of some brethren thinking you are boring. Textual Bible studies and preaching is what the world needs to hear. We cannot apologize for the truths found in God’s word and neither do we have the power to spice up the Christian life with humanistic religious ideas. Let us learn to look to God’s word and be satisfied therein.

John C. Robertson

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

II Timothy 2:15

Introduction:

There is a right and wrong approach to determining meanings in the gospel message (II Tim. 2:15). To handle aright truth one must begin with the understanding that God intends for all to read, understand, obey, and make proper application to truths (see Deut. 30:12ff; Rom. 10:6-8). This lesson will be a first principles lesson over handling aright God's word. We shall examine how God revealed Himself to man, when they received it, and the total makeup of revelation.

I. How has God revealed Himself to Man?

- A. God reveals Himself through creation (Ps. 19:1ff; Rom. 1:18-23).
- B. God reveals Himself through revelation (I Cor. 2:6-13; Gal. 1:11-12).
 - 1. God spoke directly to some prophets (Gen. 12:1ff; Ex. 12:1ff.; Numb. 7:89; 12:6ff).
 - 2. God "*moved*" some men to speak divine truths by the **Holy Spirit** (II Pet. 1:21)

II. When did man Receive Revelation?

- A. Patriarchal Age
- B. Mosaic Age
- C. Christian Age

III. Two Covenants distributed by Divine Revelation:

- A. A covenant is a "law" (AHD 334; Deut. 29:9; Psalms 111:9).
- B. Two primary covenants revealed to man for their salvation:
 - 1. God's covenant through Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4)
 - a. The Abrahamic covenant was to benefit all nations
 - b. The Mosaic Law was "added" to the first covenant due to sin
 - 2. The second covenant is the law of Christ.
 - a. There was of necessity a new or second covenant due to the first covenant being faulty and unable to make man perfect.
 - b. Christ's blood is recognized as the "blood of the covenant" in that it perfected the obedient (Matt. 26:28).

Conclusion:

God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). Those who do not handle aright truth do so of their own volition. Let the world understand that God holds all mankind accountable in relation to his revelation (see John 12:48). God's revelation explains His grace and His wrath. What side are you on?