

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010

CAREFREE LIVING

The Word teaches that we are to live carefree. I have come to understand this more and more as the birds in our yard feast on bird seed that Cheryl and I place there for them. The fact is, they don't even know how it gets there. They fuss over the feed but at the end of the day their little stomachs are full and content. The Word doesn't say that we're not to be concerned about provisions and life's needs but rather that we are to rest in an assurance that our Father cares for us and will supply our needs. Jesus pointed to the birds of the air and said that not one bird falls to the ground without the Father taking note of it and then states how much greater the we are. The Word states that we are the sheep of His pasture and that He is the Shepherd. The time to trust in the Lord with all our heart is now. The hour of heart felt gratitude is upon us. Take time to be thankful.

Pastor George Ferrington

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY “All Truth is in Jesus—Know Him”

The Lord said He was going to send His Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth. Paul supports this in Eph. 4:21 AMP when he says, **“Assuming that you have really heard Him and been taught by Him, as [all] truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him].”**

The Bible is a most precious and wonderful gift from the Lord to His people. But the Bible was not meant to take the place of the Lord Himself, nor the Spirit Whom He sent. As I see it, the Bible is a means, not an end! This idea is strongly supported by Paul and the Bible itself in 1 Corinthians 2:9 AMP: **“But, on the contrary, as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].”** The Bible can be seen and heard, and yes, the written Word of God can enter into the heart. The above Scripture tells us that what the Spirit reveals is great and wonderful, and that it has not been recorded in the Bible and thus cannot enter into man's heart except through the Spirit. We also see from the above Scripture that God has prepared many wonderful things for the believer. In verse 10, we come to understand how we receive them: **“Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny].”** Knowing the book of the Lord is not our goal; our goal is to know the Lord of the

book. Yes, the Bible does assist us in knowing the Lord, but it can only carry us so far. The many errors and divisions within the body of Christ are not due to fault in the Bible, but our misuse of it. Some of the laws and principles we have taken from the New Testament rival any thing that the Pharisees did to the Old Testament! This indeed has caused many in the Church to measure spiritually by how well we conform to the letter. Our spirituality is not found in adapting to a form, but by the forming of Jesus within us.

The truth of God is based on the spiritual law: **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”** (John 3:6). Only the Spirit of God can bring forth Christ in a believer: **“If you seek to be justified and declared righteous and to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought to nothing and so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God’s gracious favor and unmerited blessing”** (Galatians 5:4 AMP). If we do it God’s way, what can we expect? This is answered in verse 5, **“For we, [not relying on the Law but] through the [Holy] Spirit’s [help], by faith anticipate and wait for the blessing and good for which our righteousness and right standing with God [our conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action] causes us to hope.”** The absolute best human intentions can only bring forth that which is flesh. The best that a man can offer is still rooted in the Tree of Knowledge (earth’s reality). It was because of this above truth that Paul explained to the men of Athens: **“He [God] is not served by human hands”** (Acts 17:25).

The labor of the Apostles was not devoted to persuading the Church to comply with certain doctrines, but that Christ would be formed in the Church. Paul testified of this in the Galatians: **“My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you”** (Galatians 4:19). This is the purpose of all true ministry—that Christ if formed in believers, Jesus is the finished work. Our goal is not formation, but transformation! This is strongly supported in Ephesians 1:9-10: **“He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times. V10, That is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in heaven and things upon the earth, in Him.”** Heaven’s reality is based upon the spiritual truth that was testified by Jesus in John 4:23-24: **“An hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be worshipers, God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”** Paul assures us in Galatians 3:13 that: **“Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified).”** To what end? **“To the end that through [their receiving] Christ Jesus, the blessing [promised] to Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, so that we through faith might [all] receive [the realization of] the promise of the [Holy] Spirit.”**

In next month’s lesson I will teach on the subject of **“TRUE SPIRITUAL VISION IS SEEING HEAVEN’S REALITY”**. Until then, may our Lord bless and keep each of you.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

A NEW AND LIVING WAY

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh,” (Hebrews 10:19-20) When Jesus died on the cross, we were presented with a choice. Even though we were not even born yet, within the flesh of all men a consecration took place, such that we can accept Jesus as our Lord and walk in that “new and living way” or we can choose to not believe upon His name and walk in the darkness of this world. In Jesus we can now have life eternal, even in the death of this flesh. This was accomplished by the sacrifice Jesus paid on the cross for all of mankind, summed up in His declaration in John 19:30 when He said, **“It is finished.”** In Jesus we are made complete before our Heavenly Father. Praise the Lord!!! The curtain in the Temple that separated everything of the flesh from the Holy of Holies was torn from top the bottom and cast open. No longer would man have to depend on earthly priests for sanctification before God. No longer would it be necessary to go to a Temple made by the hands of men. We are now that Temple of God as He lives within each of us.

As Hebrews 10 continues, we are instructed to do five things: **“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast without wavering (for he is faithful that promised), And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”** (Hebrews 10:22-25) We see from these scriptures that decisions are required of us. We are saved by grace, now our works, it is a gift from God. All we can do is accept it by faith in Jesus Christ. But we must choose to receive all that He is now into our lives. As a result, we will want to be involved in the work and ministry of Jesus. He will live through us to touch the lives of others, as we ourselves were touched by the ministry of Jesus in someone else. We must choose what our lifestyle and priorities will be. God will not force Himself upon us. We choose to draw near to Him and how we will serve Him. We are encouraged by these scriptures and many more to seek Him with all our heart and to allow Him to live within us to the fullest. In that way we are qualified to encourage one another to serve Him and to be faithful in the ministry of righteousness and holiness before our Father.

The five things we are instructed to do are: 1) Let us draw near, 2) Let us hold fast, 3) Let us consider how, 4) Let us not give up, and 5) Let us encourage one another. These are principles of service that we should consider every day as we choose how we live each day. In my words they mean: Wake up and seek God early, determine to find Him and to know His will for my life each day, consider that His will is better for me than my will or what the world might want me to do, incorporate His purposes and plans into my daily life in such a way that others will know and be touched by my faith, and never compromise my belief but wisely allow my Father to lead me, never give up or give in to the temptations of the flesh, and set an example of righteousness and holiness for others to see. I have determined that people will not be driven to church—they must be led. So I will be an example of Jesus. He will perform the work He has planned for the people I come in contact with each day.

Now this may not be the exact plan that God has for your life. You must seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit daily so that God can direct you. The devil will try to divert your attention from God and His Word and get you back into the ways of the world. He will tell you that its too much

trouble to serve God and that people don't want to hear about that stuff. He will tell you that everyone is laughing at you and talking about you. Maybe they are, but you must believe that God has a special honor for those whose faith endures even in the face of ridicule and abuse. When we stand up for Jesus, He said that He will stand up for us. When we boldly proclaim the Word of God, satan must flee, and the world will discover the truth of the Word.

As we walk in this new and living way and draw closer and closer to God, let us never let go of the Word of God, for it is our life and strength. Let us purpose to do all that we are instructed to do in Hebrews 10, and let us not forget to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, encouraging them to stand strong in their faith.

Mike Woods

JUST A REMINDER—OUR WEBSITE www.christianfellowshipword.org has current and past newsletters as well as sermons and teachings in audio. Listen and refer your friends and family to this blessed outreach of our church. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
994 WILLIE HILL ROAD
GILBERT, LA. 71336**

**LET ALL THAT
HATH BREATHE
PRAISE THE LORD!**