

Whom Shall I Believe?

Mary Queen of Scots once said to the reformer John Knox, referring to his teachings and those of the priests: "You interpret the scriptures in one way and they in another; whom shall I believe, and who shall be the judge?"

"You shall believe God," said Knox, "who plainly speaketh in His Word; and further than the word teacheth, ye shall believe neither one nor the other. The Word of God is plain in itself, and if there appears any obscurity in one place, the Holy Ghost, who is never contradictory to himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but as to such as are obstinately ignorant." (McCrie's Life of Knox, p. 228).

How many today are like Mary? How many are perplexed by the confusion that pours forth from television, radio, press, and pulpits? Some saying one thing and some another. Whom shall I believe? God is not the author of confusion. Certainly an all wise God and a God of love would not reveal His will unto man in such a way that man could not understand what God would have him to do!

God's word is THE source of authority in religion. Faith comes by hearing the word, Rom. 10:17. We must not permit ourselves to believe anything that man says simply because man has said it. Your salvation is at stake. You owe it to yourself to search the scriptures daily, Acts 17:11.

via, *The Gospel Advertiser*



The Worker

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Volume 5 Issue 31

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

July 31, 2016

A Mistake

Many preachers spend their time to combat the sects, to expose their errors and show the mistakes they make. This is all right if this work is kept in its right place, and not permitted to crowd out other more important work. There is great danger that we let opposition to the sects and to error usurp the place of fidelity to God and the practice of truth. It is easier to fight error than it is to practice truth. It is more in harmony with our fleshly nature to fight error and errorists than to subdue the flesh and obey God. So we often substitute that for this. Much of our zeal is for party dogmas rather than for practice of the truth.

Much of the preaching consists in opposing and exposing the errors of others. This party zeal becomes a substitute for love of truth and the practice of godliness. Many preachers seem to think that the way to convert the world is to expose religious error. Hence the preaching to the world is chiefly opposition to the sects. If the sects were all destroyed, it might be easier to convert the world, but the work of converting the world would still have to be done.

The wisdom of the serpent, as well as the harmlessness of the dove, is needed in preaching the gospel. It is more important to preach the truth than to expose the error. This was the order of Jesus and the apostles. They first presented the truth of God, the working principles of the religion of Christ. Jesus first gave the Sermon on the Mount, the exhibit of the practical truths of the religion he came to establish. He then opposed error as it conflicted with these truths. If we would practice this order now, it would greatly help us in our work. We would do better work, and do it more effectively.

When we go to a new place especially to preach, it seems to me common sense, as well as divine wisdom, would prompt us to first present the truth of God concerning the way of sal-vation, and stir up opposition as little as possible until they had seen the truth as a connected whole. To stir up the prejudices of the people is to prevent their seeing the truth with impartiality and fairness. It does them a wrong and defeats the end in view. There is very great danger in making ourselves sectarians in opposing sectarians. When we go to a new place, let us present the truth in as kind and gentle, yet as earnest, spirit as is possible. Present the truth in the spirit of the truth, and oppose errors only as others bring them up to conflict with truth. Do it with earnestness, but do it in a spirit of kindness and love, and prove by experience that the order of Jesus and the apostles is the best for us and for the world.

D. Lipscomb Gospel Advocate, November 28, 1907, page 761.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "America Needs the Bible for the Family" Matthew 19:1-9

Sunday Evening: Singing Emphasis

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Jerry Casey
Scripture Ryan Irwin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Brandon Slotman
Attendant Rudy Ayala
Attendant Hank Tincher
Closing Prayer Eric Welch

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Greg Blanton
Selection 22
Prayer Bill Cravens
Sermon *Singing Emphasis*
Closing Prayer Rick Martin
If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale
Lord's Supper Irvin Williams
Offering Clint Smith Sr
Usher Art Patrick
Count Offering Joe Sweeney
Assist Count Marc Owens

Last Sunday

Offering \$2,607
Attendance 91

Am I Venting or Gossiping?

Eric Welch

Have you ever heard someone say that a wrong done by another person is between that person and God, but then they continue to talk about it? If it is between them and God, why do I even know about it in the first place? And if I do know about it, I should keep it there and not talk about it any further. If others are involved, I must let them settle the matter between them. If I myself am involved, then I must meet the other party in the middle and settle it together (Matthew 5:23-26). If the issue is not solved, then I am to take two or more with objective witnesses and arbiters. If that doesn't work, then I take it to the church. Jesus outlines this procedure in Matthew 18:15 for a reason: to protect the individual and to protect the church. I'm afraid too often we get this process backwards.

I can understand venting to someone if another person's behavior involves me. I might feel that the person won't listen to me about the wrong done to me and I'm seeking out advice. In fact, Jesus said that if the person won't listen, tell it to two others. It is not gossip if I must seek others' help and go with me. Motive is key. Am I trying to correct a wrong and save the person from eternal judgment? Or am I out to gain something? Am I doing it out of jealousy and just want to murder someone's reputation?

When I know that someone's sin has been forgiven by God and others, the conversation about their sin should stop immediately. Otherwise, the "venting" becomes gossip and makes you seem bitter, angry and spiteful. Gossip, whether the facts are true or not, can poison someone's mind against the other person forever.

Love doesn't gossip; love keeps no record of wrongdoing (1 Corinthians 13:5). Let love lead.

It's a Long Story

"He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed" -Proverbs 29:1

In August of 1989, a major fire broke out under an elevated section of New Jersey's Interstate 78. The intense heat buckled parts of the highway and forced the closing of the East Coast artery. The governor said it was the worst transportation crisis in years.

An investigation brought to light a longstanding problem. It revealed that the fire broke out in a dump site in which construction debris had been collecting for many years. The owners of the site had been convicted of a multimillion dollar conspiracy to allow the illegal dumping of construction debris. But appeals in federal and state courts frustrated New Jersey's efforts to clean up the area. Not until the day after the fire did a state appeals court finally order the operator of the dump to stop accepting trash and begin clearing the site.

This fire tells a basic story of life. Most of our problems don't just happen. They are the result of a long series of bad decisions. Second Chronicles 36 illustrates this and reminds us that God will not allow His children to continue in sin. Even though He is longsuffering, His patience has a limit. If we don't correct the problem ourselves, we can be sure that He will discipline us.

Let's clean up the trash in our lives today.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

- The Elizabethtown Bible Bowl is scheduled for Saturday July 30th at the E-Town church of Christ. Our teams have been studying and working hard in preparation for this competition.
- A Singing Emphasis service is scheduled for Sunday evening July 31st. Men and young men of the congregation who would like to lead a song or read scripture please sign the sheet in the foyer.
- Sunday July 31st is our next 5th Sunday special contribution. The elders are considering possible financial support for Denicio Miranda's preaching the Gospel in the Republic of Panama.
- Ladies Bible class will resume the end of August.
- VBS 2016 was a success! We had a great number of children and adults every night with excellent classes, crafts, snacks, skits and a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work. We appreciate everyone's encouragement and participation. The congregation extends a special thank you and our appreciation to Ashley and Stephanie for their excellent work, preparation and dedication to VBS.