

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XVI

March 7, 2010

Number 10

EVERYONE'S INVITED TO ATTEND THE -



BASIC LIFE PRINCIPLES CLASS

Providing practical, Biblical answers for your home, work, and personal life.

Topics Covered Include:

- Tracing Problems to Root Causes - *Stop Treating The Symptoms!*
- Experiencing True Success
- Discovering Purpose in Life
- Gaining Financial Freedom
- Building Genuine Friendships
- Having Harmony in Marriage
- Overcoming Feelings of Inferiority
- Learning How to Remove Guilt
- Conquering Anger and Bitterness
- Overcoming Impure Habits

***This Class Begins TODAY At 9:45 A. M.,
and Is Open To Anyone Age 14 Up.
Study materials provided.***

Every Christian Should Take this Class at Least Once in Their Life!

Due to time restrictions, we must begin promptly. Please be on time.



How To Interpret The Bible, Part 2

by the late Evangelist Ron Dunn

**The Late
Dr. Ron Dunn**

RULE #1 - The Bible as the Word of God is our sole guide and authority for faith and practice.

I remember when I was a teenager, there was a popular song going around called ***It's In The Book*** and those words were repeated over and over again... “it’s in the book”... “it’s in the book”. Before long, everybody was going around saying, “It’s in the book...it’s in the book.” Now - the question you and I need to ask of every doctrine of every teaching is this, ***“Is it in the Book?”***, for we accept the Bible as the authoritative Word from God to man. It is the full and final revelation of God recorded in that Book. There is ***no*** authoritative revelation apart from or outside of that written Word. ***Everything*** must square with what is written there. The last word on any doctrinal matter is not an experience. It’s not observation. It’s not feeling. It’s not a word of prophecy from some modern prophet...it is ***“does it square with the word of God? Is it in the book?”***

To handle accurately the Word of God you’ve got to have a firm grip on it, you see, and if you handle it loosely, as many do, you’re going to be interpreting it falsely. Now, I cannot overstate the importance of this first principle because to fail here is to fail everywhere. It’s sort of like buttoning your shirt...if you get the first button in the wrong buttonhole, you’re going to be wrong all the way to the end.

Now, I know what some of you may be thinking... “Well, Preacher, everybody knows that! Everybody knows that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God and it is the sole authority for faith and practice.” Well, the fact is everybody does ***not*** know it or if they know it, they are ignoring it. There is a subtle erosion of this principle occurring everywhere in contemporary history.

One prominent author wrote in her book called ***Something More***, that the Holy Spirit has not confined His revelation to the truths contained in the canon of the Old and New Testaments. She said, ***“It is good to know the Holy Spirit has not confined His revelation to the truths contained in the canon of the Old and New Testaments.”*** In other words, the Holy Spirit is giving revelations today that are as valid and inspired as those found in the Bible.

Now, teaching like this sets loose all kinds of confusion,

misunderstanding and heresy. It becomes a license for anyone to claim that they are speaking “from the Lord”, and that creates a monster of theological chaos. The fact is the Holy Spirit ***has*** limited revelation to the Old and New Testament! There is ***no*** added revelation today! There is ***no*** inspiration today as the Holy Spirit inspired the Scripture writers. That kind of inspiration is ***not*** going on today. What we have today is ***illumination...*** the Holy Spirit’s giving us the ability to ***understand*** and ***comprehend*** what He has written in this Book. Revelation is confined to the Word of God. Period

We sometimes talk about a canon...the canon of the Bible. We talk about these books like John and Matthew and Mark and Luke being in the canon. A canon is a rule...a law...a measuring rod. It’s a criteria by which something is measured, and the Bible is our canon. The Bible is our criteria by which Christian faith is measured and it is complete.

Now, I want you to look in Jude, the little epistle of Jude over back right before Revelation. Jude 3.

He opens his epistle saying, ***“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints...”***

Now, I want you to notice the phrase... ***“once delivered to the saints...”*** Now, that phrase ***“the faith”*** refers to the whole body of Christian truth...when he says to contend for ***“the faith”*** he’s referring to the complete and final revelation of God to man. The definite article in the Greek is there. It’s ***“the faith”*** and that points to the one and only faith. There is no other. He’s referring to that body of Christian revelation which today we call the Bible. It is the faith, the one and only faith...there is no other.

The word “once” means ***“once for all”*** - he talks about that faith which was delivered “once for all” to the saints refers something done once for all time...needing no addition or repetition. The word “delivered” is a Greek participle indicating that it has been completed and stands complete. The word ***“delivered”*** is used for handing authorized traditions in Israel, and what Jude is saying is that that apostolic tradition has been handed down to the people of God and it is the canon

Now, this is important for us to understand: ***The Bible is the only objective part of our faith.*** The rest is subjective and easily misinterpreted. I remember a man in St. Louis saying to me, “I don’t care what the Bible says, I’ve had an experience.” Now, somehow I don’t think he meant to put it just like that but actually he was probably telling the truth about himself. Exalting his subjective experience above the Word of God. Someone has said that religious experience nowadays arouses more public interest than religious doctrine and that’s certainly true. Experience is a powerful persuader. But as a reliable interpreter of religious truth it is profoundly inadequate and downright misleading.

For one thing, we cannot always interpret accurately our own experiences. There is a vast difference between feeling certain and being right, do you know what I mean? Have you ever made a

fool of yourself by insisting on something that you felt certain was right? But feeling certain is not the same thing as being right. You may feel like it's Wednesday, and it may be Thursday, and all the feeling that you have doesn't change it. You may feel like it's 4:00 in the afternoon, but it may not be. Feeling certain about something and being right about something are two different things.

For another thing, our experience can be so elusive. Not only can we not always interpret our own experience right, but we cannot always interpret the experience of someone else. I was reading just last night in the Gospel of John for example...John 12:28-29... Jesus prayed that the Father's name would be glorified and the Father's voice answered from Heaven saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Well, John goes on to say that the people around Jesus disagreed as to what they had heard. Some said what they'd heard was thunder...others said an angel had spoken to Jesus. Even those who were on the scene when that manifestation, that experience happened, were in doubt, they were in conflict about what really happened.

There is no desire, I think, more human than the desire to know...the desire for knowledge. We try every means that can enable us to have knowledge and when reason fails, we'll make use of experience. That's why the occult is so fascinating. People want to know things that are hidden and if they cannot acquire that knowledge by correct methods then they will go to other methods. But experience is a very slippery word. I want to quote Dr. J. I. Packer. He says, *"Experience coming to imperfectly sanctified sinners cannot help but have dross mixed in with the gold. No experience just by happening can authenticate itself as sent by God to further His work of grace."*

The mere fact that a Christian has an experience does not make it a **Christian** experience and that's what I want you to get. The mere fact that a Christian has an experience does not make *it* a **Christian** experience. As a matter of fact, the same phenomena that Christians claim to experience have also been experienced by non-Christians. One of the interesting studies points out that there are people both inside and outside the Christian faith that have had out-of-body experiences. Lost people have the same experiences. Anthropologists know that among primitive, pagan tribes similar incidents have occurred...where folks spoke in unknown tongues, had visions, there were prophetic utterances...there were physical healings, there were casting out of contrary spirits...I mean these things happened among pagans in primitive tribes.

Now, this doesn't mean that all similar Christian experience is false. What it *does* mean is that such experience cannot authenticate itself. And this is extremely vital to understand. Experience cannot authenticate itself. You cannot say, "I've had this experience and that means it's authentic." You just can't do that. It has no basis because experience is a subjective part of our lives.

Then also in this matter of experience, there is the inclination to make our experience a standard for everyone else. Have you

ever noticed that? If God healed me, that means God will heal you. If God made me wealthy, that means God wants all His children to be wealthy. Let God do something extraordinary for one person and we rush to declare that it's the ordinary experience for every Christian. But, it is not!

I know at times I've heard people point to the apostles and we've often been told that if God did it for them, then He will do it for us. But, church doctrine, you see, is not based on the apostles' experiences, it is based on their teaching. Now, Paul had a very dramatic conversion experience on the road to Damascus, but it would be foolish to demand that every experience of conversion have the same kind of attendance to it. That would be ridiculous.

(continued next week)

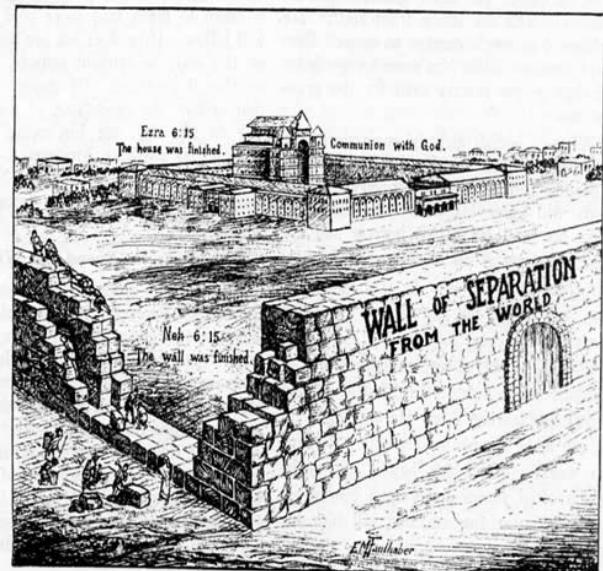


BE SURE AND SAVE YOUR LABELS!

When You Buy "BEST CHOICE" brands at the store, KEEP THE UPC codes from the label and out them in the box in the church foyer!

Associated Wholesale Grocers operates what they call the "Save-A-Label" program, which is an extremely successful program which helps non-profit organizations raise money. Currently, there are more than 10,000 non-profit groups in the AWG trade area that participate in the program.

For every 1,000 Best Choice UPC symbol we turn in to them, they will send us \$30! Not only that, they will match the first 1,000 and give us \$60! And, while this may not sound like much, every little bit helps, so buy Best Choice brands when you can, then be sure and turn in the UPC code after you've used the product.



NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
	Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
6:30 p.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
	Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
Wed. Eve. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
	Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 28, 2010

Sunday School -----	25
Sunday Morning Service -----	41
Evening Service -----	34
Wed. Eve. Service, 03/03/10 -----	31

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of February 28, 2009

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,224.00
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 80.00
Total Received for Week of 02/28/10: -----	\$ 1,304.00
Average amount of <u>Undesignated Offerings</u> needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, 	
<u>as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00</u>	

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

We Are Suspending Our Specific Fund Drives Until Our Regular Weekly Offerings Come Back Up To Where They Need To Be. Please Give As Much As You Can To Help Us Catch Up After The Extremely Low Giving We Experienced This Summer And Fall.



Visit Us Online At - www.southheightsbaptist.com

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



**Please Remember To
Be Faithful to Give!**

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Mickie Shatwell -----	Pianist
Dickie Eberle -----	Greeter, Custodian
Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White -----	S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English, Geroux family -----	Outreach
Flowers -----	Hannah and Shirley White