

REMINDER

Volume XVI

May 2, 2010

Number 18

NEXT SUNDAY IS -

MOTHER'S DAY!



***EVERY MOTHER PRESENT NEXT SUNDAY WILL
RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH!***

WE WILL ALSO HONOR -

- ***The Oldest Mother Present***
- ***The Newest Mother Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children AND
Grandchildren Present***

BE SURE AND BE HERE!



How To Interpret The Bible, Part 10

by the late Evangelist Ron Dunn

The Late Dr. Ron Dunn

There are six rules of Bible interpretation. Thus far, we've looked at the first four:

- ☛ **RULE #1 - The Bible as the Word of God is our sole guide and authority for faith and practice.**
- ☛ **RULE #2 - The Primary Theme of Revelation Is Redemption.**
- ☛ **RULE #3 - The Revelation of God Is a Progressive Revelation.**
- ☛ **RULE #4 - We Must Distinguish Between The Picture And The Frame**

Last week, we began looking at -

RULE #5 - Scripture Interprets Scripture

3. Quoting verses and preaching the Word are not the same thing.

Some teachers bombard their listeners with verse after verse from every corner of the Bible and the verses have no relation to one another. There is rarely any attempt to reconcile one verse with the other or explain the meaning of that verse in its context. I've heard some preachers just inundate their listeners with hundreds of isolated texts, mostly from the Old Testament and then they would say, "Don't analyze it, just believe it." They mean to say, "Don't question me about any verse I just quoted." If you question somebody about one of those verses, then they accuse you of unbelief. I admit that quoting a steady stream of verses is impressive and can overwhelm an audience and they will sometimes discourage scrutiny of those verses but quoting verses and preaching the Word are not the same thing.

And when somebody says, "Don't question it, just believe it," they have something to hide. That's a naïve and shallow view of both faith and preaching. See, faith doesn't fear facts. Truth doesn't resist questions, it welcomes them. Truth welcomes analysis and merely reciting verses...heaping one on top of another is not preaching the Word.

For instance, Matthew 10:1 is a good example of interpreting

Scripture out of context... *"And when he had called unto [him] his twelve disciples, he gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."*

Some use this verse to support the claim that we have the same power and authority Jesus gave to His disciples...that we can do the works of Jesus just as He did them, and since Jesus so clearly commanded His disciples to heal the sick, cast out demons and raise the dead...we can do the same.

Now, this of course just isn't so. It's just nonsense. Why do I say that? Because Jesus goes on to instruct His disciples "to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, avoid the Gentiles and the Samaritans." In verses 9 and 10, Jesus instructs them further that they should not acquire gold or silver or copper for their money belts or a bag for their journey or even two tunics or sandals or staff for the worker is worthy of his hire.

Now folks, if we lay claim to verse 1, we must also claim the following verses. This would mean that we could minister only to the Jews...no preaching or healing among the Gentiles. We must raise the dead as well as the sick. We must not acquire any money, carry only one suit and one pair of shoes. I tell you, folks, I've heard many claim verse 1, but I've never heard anybody make the same claim for the verses that follow. If anyone ever struck out on the circuit with only one suit and one pair of shoes and didn't acquire any gold or silver along the way, I missed him when he came to my town.

Now, here is a powerful example of the rule of context...that Jesus meant this commission for the original twelve only, and that it was limited to a specific group in a specific time frame is made clear by verse 2. Jesus says He gave His disciples this authority...verse 2: *"Now the names of the twelve apostles are these..."* and then Jesus lists them. I remember reading years ago J. Sidlow Baxter said, "Dear brother, if your name is not among the list of the twelve, the commission was not ever given to you." So, here is an example of interpreting a verse out of context.

And the fact of the matter is ignoring this rule of interpretation can lead to another common error, that is superimposing Western culture and values upon the Bible. The doctrine of prosperity, the idea that God wants every Christian to be materially wealthy is the result of forcing our economic values upon the pages of the Bible.

One religious speaker...this is good...one religious speaker, one of these fellows said that when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey He established the doctrine of prosperity. Now, let that sink in...that Jesus established the doctrine of prosperity when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. "Riding on a donkey," he said, "was equivalent to driving a luxurious limousine." Now, there's not anything wrong with driving a limousine, but to establish a Biblical doctrine on that incident defies reason and slaps common sense in the face. Anyway, the donkey was borrowed. Rather than the doctrine of prosperity, Jesus established the doctrine of "rent-a-car." That is one example of taking Western values, American values and superimposing them upon the Bible. You

see, only an affluent society could generate such a doctrine.

Let's face it...where else but America can you buy low-calorie dog food for overweight canines? Only in America could that happen...the claim of the "wealth and health" doctrine may sound plausible when spoken by some wealthy banker in a hotel ballroom. But you take that same message to the village in India, or Bangladesh, or some other drought ridden part of Africa and try to preach it over there.

- more next week

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David O. Cloud

• **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SKEPTICISM** - The following is by archaeologist Dr. Bryant Wood:

Secular scholars are generally of the opinion that any aspect of the early history of Israel prior to the kingdom period cannot be taken at face value unless the veracity of the events described can be validated by means of independent witnesses. This approach is strongly biased and nonscientific. Other ancient documents are assumed to be accurate unless there is credible evidence to suggest otherwise. These documents are just as religious as the Bible, as the writers of ancient texts regularly mention their pagan gods and what the gods did on their behalf" ("Extra-Biblical Evidence for the Conquest," Bible and Spade, Fall 2005).

The "biased and nonscientific" skepticism on the part of most archaeologists is the product of the willful blindness described in II Peter 3 -

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days, scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continued as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished."

The Bible calls end-time skeptics "willingly ignorant." That is an interesting use of words in light of how proud these men are of their knowledge. God doesn't merely call them deceived; He calls them ignorant. Bible-believing friends, don't be intimidated by proud skeptics. There is more wisdom in one verse of the Bible than there is in the whole world of skeptical writings.

• **THE ARROGANCE OF MAN** - The following is by Brian Snider -

"And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isaiah 2:17).

The year has been hard on man's arrogance. Man likes to think that he has completely conquered the sky, yet one little volcano in an out of the way place knocked a multi-billion dollar hole in international air traffic that is really only just now getting straightened out. Man likes to think that he has conquered the oceans, but a multi-million dollar drilling platform exploded, burned and sunk into the sea during routine activities, leaving a

well spewing oil into the ocean and BP wondering how to cap it. Already this year, millions have been displaced and tens of thousands killed by earthquakes and their resultant destruction. And yet, for all the uncertainty of life, the lack of humility on the part of man continues unabated. No softening toward God. No willingness to hear his Word. No looking for help outside of man's own feeble strength. One of man's great sins is his failure to recognize a Holy Creator. And for that reason, there is a day coming when God will humble every man on this earth. If man will not humble himself, God will do the humbling for him. What a dreadful day that will be for man. And yet what a glorious day that will be for our God. And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

• **CLIMATE CHANGE: A TOTALITARIAN'S DREAM COME TRUE** - The following is excerpted from CNSNews.com, April 22, 2010:

For E. Calvin Beisner and his colleagues at the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation (CASC), every day is Earth Day because Christians are called by God to be good stewards of the planet and its inhabitants. Beisner believes that it is not carbon emissions but global warming activism and international climate treaties that are a threat to the nation's future and the world's poorest populations. "Climate change is the totalitarian's dream come true," Beisner, founder of the CASC, said at a conference on Thursday at the Family Research Council in Washington. "It offers a rationale for government intrusion into every aspect of life for every person on Earth."

Beisner painted a chilling picture of what would happen if the United States signed on to the kind of international climate-change treaty proposed at a United Nations conference in Copenhagen last year. "Global warming alarmists see each new human being in terms of his or her carbon footprint, and already many are saying that the best way to fight global warming is for everyone to have just one child so that the population will shrink," Beisner said. The enforcement of a U.N.-style treaty would mean a global government's intrusion into how people live their private lives -- "everything from the temperature at which you keep your house to whether to drive a large, crash-worthy vehicle or a small car that conserves fuel but is a death trap in an accident," Beisner said.

In his speech, Beisner said that Christians should be concerned about global warming policies because they affect myriad issues, such as the sanctity of human life, individual liberty, the survival of free enterprise and free markets in the United States, compassion for the poor around the world, and a sovereign America with the kind of limited government envisioned by the Founding Fathers. ■

**The
Attack
on the
BIBLE**



NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly
 6:90 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!!!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of April 25, 2010

Sunday School ----- 22
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 31
 Lord's Supper Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 04/28/10 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of April 25, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,594.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 45.00
Total Received for Week of 04/25/10: \$ 1,594.00

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

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