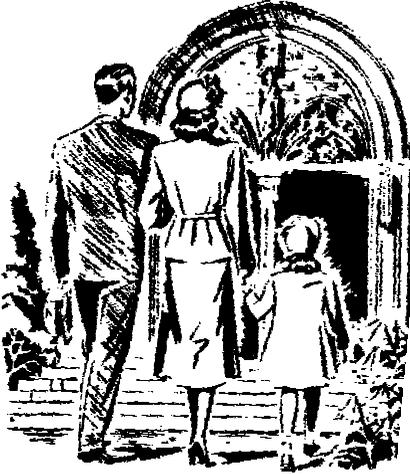


REMINDER

HOW PEOPLE CHOOSE A CHURCH -



A survey was taken among a group of suburban churches in a large city. Each church member interviewed was asked, “*Why did you choose to join the particular church where you are now worshipping?*”

- ☛ 9 % said they chose their church because of its architectural beauty.
- ☛ 14% joined because of denominational loyalty.
- ☛ 18% joined because it was convenient to their homes.
- ☛ 3% joined because of the influence of the pastor.
- ☛ 22% joined because there were people in the church whom they respected.
- ☛ 34% joined because neighbors or friends invited them to that church.

These statistics show that God is still using people to bring other people into the fellowship of his churches.

How Long Has it Been since YOU Invited Someone or Offered to Pick up Someone and Bring Them to Church?

Watch your community and neighborhood for newcomers. Get acquainted with them, and ask them about their church affiliation and invite them to your church!



How To Interpret The Bible, Part II

by the late Evangelist Ron Dunn

The Late
Dr. Ron Dunn

*T*here are six rules of Bible interpretation. Thusfar, we've looked at the first five:

- ☛ **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**
- ☛ **RULE #5 - Scripture Interprets Scripture**

Now let's look at -

RULE #6 - WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LITERARY CHARACTER OF THE BOOK

Now, while the Bible is one book, it's more than one book...it is a collection of books. And you'll find a full range of literary forms in Scripture...historical narratives, poetry, proverbs, hymns, allegory, law, prose, and this is an important factor in understanding the Bible, because the approach to each literary style must be different. You don't interpret Acts the same way you would interpret Ezekiel because that would lead to a great deal of confusion. The Psalms are largely poetic writings, filled with vivid images. I really don't believe God has wings like it says in Psalm 17:8. And I don't believe He really has feathers as it says in Psalm 91:4. That's poetic imagery. And we understand it as such. The four Gospels and the Book of Acts are largely historical narratives, and this should influence our approach to them.

I remember early in my ministry I wondered if churches should meet in homes like they did in the Book of Acts. I'd heard some who suggested we should. They said that because the church in the Book of Acts, we ought to meet in homes also. But, I suspect

the reason the people met in homes was because they had no other place to gather. Whatever reason...we are not *instructed* to meet in homes, and by the way, this is a very important *point...our doctrine comes not from what the apostles did or what the apostles experienced, but from what they taught!*

John Phillips, who is the author of the EXPLORING SERIES of commentaries said, "*It is an axiom that you don't get your doctrine from the Book of Acts.*" You see, in one way, the Gospels and Acts present the same question as does the Old Testament. Since they are historical documents, how do we separate the picture from the frame? Much of the Gospel record is clearly universal and eternal in its application, such as the ethical and moral teachings of the Sermon on the Mount...the Upper Room Discourse and the truths that are expressed in the parables, and so on. But, what about foot washing? What about baptism? What about communion? What about healing? On matters like these, we turn to the epistles, don't we? *It is in the epistles where church doctrine is established.* We interpret the Gospels and the Acts in light of the epistles, you see. We interpret the Old Testament in light of the New Testament. And we interpret the Gospels and the Acts in the light of the epistles as far as finding out what our church doctrine is to be...what teachings, commands, precepts are reiterated in the epistles...

This is why most churches don't observe foot washing as an ordinance of the church. Why? Jesus washed feet, and He said in John 13...He commanded His disciples to wash feet, but hardly any churches do that today. Why? Because there is no evidence whatsoever that the early church practiced it as such and it is never taught in the epistles to be a part of the ordinances of the church. You won't find it taught in the epistles and you won't find it mentioned in the epistles as something we're supposed to do.

And you can apply the same to any other question that you have. For instance, we've been talking a lot about healing. Through the epistles' teaching...read through the epistles...is there anywhere they exhort us to apostolic healing? Now, what is interesting is that in view of the prominent place that healing occupies in the Gospels and the Acts, I'm surprised to find almost nothing about it in the rest of the New Testament. If the church is supposed to believe in and practice apostolic healing, it should be taught in the epistles. But, it isn't. Nowhere is it taught or suggested that we have the divine right to be healed of all sicknesses and maladies.

To me the conclusion is obvious. If the emphasis of our ministry is to be the same of the apostles' teaching, we cannot justify the excessive emphasis on physical and deliverance and material prosperity.

Now, I said at the beginning of these messages that these principles of interpretation, while not exhaustive, are basic and sufficient. And observing these six guidelines can safeguard us from doctrinal error. They can enable us to recognize false teaching and equip us to handle accurately the Word of truth.

God bless you.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **COMEDY CENTRAL NETWORK PLANNING A PROGRAM THAT PURPOSELY DENIGRATES CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH** - The Comedy Central network has a long history of denigrating Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Now, they are developing a new series called "JC" that will openly mock Jesus and give Comedy Central even more time and latitude to increase their attacks on a religion practiced by 80 percent of Americans. Just weeks ago, Comedy Central censored a depiction of Mohammad after intense Muslim protest. But Christians are fair game!

The Media Research Center is assembling a petition to send to Comedy Central and its parent company Viacom that will let them know the objection of the people of America to their plans to air this show mocking Christians! You can add your name to the petition by going here:

www.mrcaction.org/555/petition.asp?PID=24713773&NID=1

We cannot allow the Hollywood Elite and the left-wing media to continue to savage Christians.

❑ **STUDY FINDS THAT BABIES KNOW DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL** - An extensive study led by Yale University professor Paul Bloom has found that even babies know the difference between good and evil. In one experiment, researchers had babies up to one year watch a play in which a toy dog tried to open a box, while one teddy bear helped him and another stubbornly sat on the box. The babies invariably favored the helpful teddy bear. Bloom says, "A growing body of evidence suggests that humans do have a rudimentary moral sense from the very start of life. With the help of well designed experiments, you can see glimmers of moral thought, moral judgment and moral feeling even in the first year of life. Some sense of good and evil seems to be bred in the bones" ("Babies Know the Difference," Daily Mail, May 10, 2010).

Actually, the morality isn't in the bones; it is in the heart. Man is made in God's image, and even though he is fallen and estranged from God, the moral image remains, though corrupted. The Bible says that men "shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another" (Romans 2:15). This moral conscience is not perfect and it can be hardened, but it is enough to prove that there is a God and that men are accountable to Him. The fact that babies know good from evil also reminds us that child training must begin very early. This fact led the late J.B. Buffington to preach a message entitled "How to Lose Your Child Before He is Five Years Old" (available at www.wayoflife.org)

❑ **CCM STAR QUESTIONS WHETHER BIBLE SPEAKS AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY** - Jennifer Knapp, a hard-rocking Contemporary Christian musician who recently came "out of the closet" with her lesbianism, said on Larry King Live (April 23) that the Bible's teaching against homosexuality is based on faulty translation and interpretation.

When asked if she thinks the Bible speaks against

homosexuality she replied, "Well, I think there is plenty of evidence in my exploration of my faith through the sacred text of the Holy Bible that I have definitely recognized that we are somewhat at the handicap of our own interpretation against homosexuality. In the long run I don't have the greatest deal of problems with it because I'm not the only person in the universe that has ever looked at a different interpretation."

Let's see if this thinking works. Leviticus 20:13 says, "***If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination...***" There is no problem with the translation, and the interpretation looks straightforward to me. Let's try another passage, this time in the New Testament. "***For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet"*** (Romans 1:26-27).

The problem that a homosexual or any other sinner has with the Bible is not its translation and interpretation; it is its authority. As the famous agnostic Mark Twain reputedly said, 'It is not the things that in the Bible that I don't understand that trouble me; it's the things that I do understand.'

Elsewhere Knapp called the verses against homosexuality "clobber verses." Indeed, the Bible is full of verses that clobber our sin, and the reason is that God is a holy but compassionate God who wants us to repent and be saved (Romans 3:19-22)! Homosexuality is a growing trend within the CCM and Southern Gospel movements. It is not a new thing, but formerly it was fairly hidden. In 1998 Kirk Franklin said that "homosexuality ... is a problem today in gospel music--a major concern--and everybody knows it" (Church Boy, pp. 49, 50).

❑ **BEWARE OF DAVE CROWDER** - Dave Crowder is one of the most popular and influential of contemporary worship leaders. His hard-rocking band has produced seven albums. Not only is his music flesh-pleasingly sensual, his theology is heretical and his associations exceedingly dangerous.

Crowder started his praise and worship career as a student at the liberal Baylor University, where theological modernism and evolution are taught. In 1995, Crowder founded University Baptist Church together with emerging church leader Chris Seay, who denies the infallible inspiration of Scripture.

In typical CCM fashion, Crowder is radically ecumenical. He recently granted an interview with the Roman Catholic Life Teen magazine, ignoring the fact that the magazine advertises itself as "100% Catholic" and "obedient to the Magisterium" (the pope and his cohorts) and has dedicated itself "to the Blessed Virgin Mary" ("David Crowder's Crowded Theology," Feb. 28, 2010, DefendingContending.com).

Crowder not only associates with Catholic error, he is sympathetic to it. He told Life Teen magazine, "Much of the Catholic traditions and writings have been influential in my

formation of faith..." He said that he particularly appreciates "St. Francis" of Assisi. He even sings a prayer of St. Francis on his Illuminate album.

Crowder has indeed been deeply influenced by Romanism, and the chief conduit is the contemplative movement. Crowder has authored a contemplative book entitled Praise Habit. In this he promotes "lectio divina" and other Catholic practices. He also uses The Message, which is no more the Word of God than C.S. Lewis's fairy tales.

The contemplative movement, which has spread throughout evangelicalism over the past two decades, produces an attitude of tolerance toward error and a sympathy toward Rome and often leads to religious syncretism and pantheism, as in the case of Thomas Merton. Evangelist David O. Cloud has documented this in his books "Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond" and "What Is the Emerging Church?" ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byarsy
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Janet Bridges
 Cradle Roll 2: Bertha Segebart
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!!!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of May 9, 2010

Sunday School ----- 25
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 42
 Lord's Supper Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 05/12/10 ----- 28

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of May 9, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,225.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 16.00
Total Received for Week of 05/09/10: \$ 1,241.00

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

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 ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

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.

READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY...

