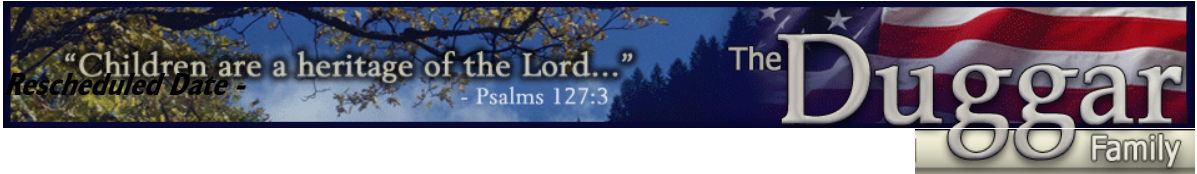


REMINDER

BE PLANNING NOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO MEET -



NEXT SUNDAY MORNING - August 2, 2009

- Duggar-family Musicians Will Play and Sing For Our Service!***
- Jim Bob & Michelle Will Be Speaking In The Morning Service!***
- Michelle Duggar To Give Devotional At Rebekah White's Baby Shower At 1:30 p.m.***

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

Pastor's Corner

Todd M. White

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Next Sunday morning, we have the wonderful opportunity to meet with the Duggar Family from Arkansas and rejoice together with them in the marvelous ways God is blessing them with opportunities to witness for Christ around the world.

Years ago, your pastor, who was living in Arkansas at the time, took this dear young couple aside one day and, in the course of conversation, strongly urged Jim Bob and Michelle - only then having been recently married - to live a life for God and raise a family unto the Lord. Included in that advice was an encouragement not to follow the standards and practices of this lost world as they raised their family, but, rather, to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I shared with them that the greatest thing they could do as a young couple was to give their children to the Lord and ask Him when and how many children that He would have them to bring into this world. Then, I closed out that discussion by stating that, if they placed God first in their lives and life together, He would bless them and their family incomparably.

Now, almost 25 years later, we have the distinct privilege of having this dear young couple and their sweet children coming to be our guests next Sunday in the morning service. Since those days so many years ago, it has been a sweet blessing for Shirley and I to watch as God has honored His Word as Jim Bob and Michelle have faithfully applied it to their lives and the lives of their children. The Lord is using their simple, practical application of the principles of His Word to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to countless millions who would otherwise never hear it or see how it can make such a positive difference in the lives of all who will allow it to.

Please be praying for our time together next Sunday - it is your pastor's prayer and hope that having the Duggar's here will be an encouragement and blessing to all of our people, particularly our teens and young adults, and demonstrate that living for God IS the BEST way to live, with no exceptions! Further, it is also my prayer that others who believe as we do will discover our church through the Duggar's being here, and, if God should so direct, find a place they can call their own church home.

Don't forget the church-wide dinner we'll be having after the morning service, as well - be sure and sign up in the foyer on the bulletin board and indicate what you will be bringing. If some of our ladies and teen girls could pitch in with the preparations, it would be a real blessing to Shirley, who is recovering from gall bladder surgery and will not be able to do as much as she normally does when we have these dinners. Thank you so much!



IN DEFENSE OF BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY

by Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Pastor
First Baptist Church - Spring Valley, California
(Sixth in this series - continued from last week)

THE WALDENSES



Piotr WALDO

Many so-called historians attempt to fix the beginnings of the Waldenses with one of their ablest leaders, Peter Waldo (born 1140, died 1218). This is in fact not the case. Two points can be confidently made:

1. The Waldenses are of ancient origin. An Austrian inquisitor (Catholic) in the Diocese of Passau in 1260 wrote "*some say that it* (Waldenses "heresy") *dates back to the time of Sylvester (A.D. 325); others to the time of the apostles.*" David of Augsburg said, "*They call themselves successors of the apostles...*" An early Waldensian document, **The Noble Lesson** (written in 1100, 40 years before Peter Waldo was born!) assigns the beginning of the Waldensian churches to the days of the Emperor Constantine under Bishop Sylvester!

2. The Waldenses are closely linked to the Albigenses. The Jesuit, Jacob Gretsch, stated: "*that the Toulousians and Albigenses condemned in the year 1177 and 1178 were no other than the Waldenses. In fact, their doctrines, discipline, government, manners, and even the errors with which they had been charged show the Albigenses and Waldenses were distinct branches of the same sect, or the former was sprung from the later.*" (Rankin, History of France, III, 198-202).

The name Waldense seems to have sprung up at the time of the Catharist stirrings throughout southern France. This name apparently derives from the Italian word "Valdesi" or the French word "Vaudois" meaning "valley" and was applied because of the usual residence of these Bible believers was in the fertile valleys of the high mountain ranges, where they would be protected by the natural land barriers from their deadliest enemies, the Church of Rome.

A great revival occurred under the preaching of Peter Waldo, who had been a wealthy Catholic merchant of Lyon, France, who was converted to Christ. He became absorbed in the Word of God and even hired two priests to translate the Scripture into his native tongue. Seeking the purity of New Testament Christianity, and desiring to preach the Gospel to the people, he literally "left all" and followed Christ.

Waldo and his congregation called themselves "**The Poor Men of Lyon.**" They were noted for their memorization of large parts of the Bible, their poverty, and their preaching. They inevitably ran afoul of the Catholic hierarchy, and were forbidden to preach without permission by Lateran III in 1179. In 1183, they were condemned as heretics. At this point they merged with

other Catharist groups and for the next 35 years spread across France, Italy, and Bohemia. The Waldenses were very evangelistic. They had numerous traveling evangelists who carried small Bibles under their cloaks, always ready to preach the Gospel. Tradition says that Peter Waldo died in Bohemia.

The doctrines of the Waldenses, when seen from their own writings, are easily discerned:

The Waldenses accepted the whole Bible and regarded it as authoritative. They were noted for their love for and use of the Scriptures - in a time when possessing, hearing, or reading the Bible was forbidden - by the "Church"!!! They believed the Scriptures ought to be available to all people. Many of them knew the New Testament, or great sections of it, by heart. They opposed any spiritualized interpretation of the Bible, taking it literally.

They rejected Rome's claim to be the "true" church, and believed preaching should be the right of every Christian, and denied the right of priest to bind or loose, consecrate or bless.

In a Waldensian document dated 1120, in the twelfth article, they state: ***"We consider the sacraments as signs of holy things, or the visible emblems of invisible blessings. We regard it as proper and even necessary that believers use these symbols or visible forms when it can be done, notwithstanding which we maintain that believers may be saved without these signs when they have neither place nor opportunity of observing them."*** (Perrin, Histoire Des Vaudois, I, xii, 53.)

The 7th Article of a Confession of Faith dated 1544 says: ***"We believe that in the ordinance of baptism the water is the visible and external sign, which represents to us that which, by virtue of God's invisible operation, is within us. ... And by this ordinance we are received into the holy congregation of God's people, previously professing our faith and the change of life."*** (Sleiden, the General History Of the Reformation, 347, London, 1689)

Peter of Clugny, in 1146, brought the following charges against the Waldenses: ***"They say that infants are not to be baptized, or saved by the faith of another, but ought to be baptized and saved by their own faith...And that those who are baptized in infancy, when grown up, should be baptized again...rather rightly baptized."*** (Hist. Eccl. Madgeburg, cent. Xii c. v. 834).

An ultimatum issued by the Pope against the Waldenses and other "heretics" in 1176 said, among other things: ***"We believe that none are saved, except they are baptized; and that children are saved by baptism, and that baptism is to be performed by a priest in the church."***

The Waldenses rejected outright this doctrine as well as the ideas of purgatory and prayers for the dead. They believed in Heaven for the saved and Hell for the lost! Other Catholic doctrines that were rejected by the Waldenses were: the veneration of Mary; prayers to the saints; veneration of relics; indulgences; use of images, absolution; and oath taking.

Most of those who would deny the preservation of the

scriptures in the traditional texts of the Old and New Testaments like to attack the Waldenses because they played such an important part in the divine preservation of the Word of God during the "dark ages" of Roman supremacy. From their earliest beginnings the churches of northern Italy had a Bible which was pure in its text. It was called the "Italic Bible" or the "Itala," which was produced about 157 A.D., translated from the Graeco-Syrian text. This made it quite different from the Latin Vulgate (official Catholic Bible) which was translated in 386 by Jerome from the corrupted manuscripts, many of which had been influenced by Origen of Alexandria.

The pure New Testament text was preserved throughout the dark ages in the Byzantine manuscripts, as well as in the Waldensian Bibles in their vernacular.

In the 14th and 15th centuries the Jesuits translated Jerome's vulgate into Italian and French, ***"to shake out of the deceived peoples' hands, the false heretical translations of a sect called Waldenses."***

An edition of the Waldensian 'Olivetian Bible' was influential in the translation of the English Geneva Bible - the Bible ultimately replaced by the Authorized Version of 1611. David O. Fuller, writing in his book, Which Bible (Grand Rapids International Publications, 1975, page 212) states:

"It is therefore evident that the translators of 1611 had before them four Bibles which had come under Waldensian influences: the Diodati in Italian; the Olivetan in French; the Lutheran in German; and the Genevan in English. We have every reason to believe they had access to at least six Waldensian bibles written in the old Waldensian vernacular."

The persecutions of the Waldensians were legion. In 1179 the Poor Men of Lyon were forbidden to preach without the permission of the Catholic clergy. In 1183 Pope Lucius III excommunicated Peter Waldo and his followers at the Synod of Verona, and from this time on the Waldenses began to be persecuted with great severity. In 1212 five hundred Waldensians were taken prisoner in Strassburg and 80 of them were burned at the stake. In 1380 the antipope Clement VIII sent a monk into the Waldensian Valleys to root out "heretics."

Over the next 13 years several hundred were burned at the stake. In the 15th century the persecutions began to increase, and in 1486, Pope Innocent VIII ordered an army of 18,000 men to exterminate them. In 1545, the Waldensians of Provence were exterminated, in 1559 those of Calabria, and in 1560 those of the Piedmont were all gone. In 1655, the terrible "Piedmontese Easter" saw troops of the Marquis of Pianezza bring about the final great massacre of the Waldensians in Piedmont, where the earlier persecutions had driven them, as well as into Provence, the Cottian Alps, and Dauphiny.

Some were dispersed to Germany, settling in Cologne, Frankfurt, and Nuremburg, and some went into Austria and Bohemia. Churches calling themselves Waldensian exist in many cities of Italy today and have their headquarters in Piedmont, the major city being Turin. They represent the largest evangelical group in Catholic Italy. Unfortunately, the Waldenses fell into

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 19, 2009

Sunday School ----- 14
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 24
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 15
 Wed. Eve. Service, 07/22/09 ----- 13

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of July 19, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 857.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 30.00
Total Received for Week of 07/19/09: \$ 887.00

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

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,489.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 570.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 335.00

the Protestant camp after the reformation. *"Sick and tired of heart in 1530 the remnant of the Waldenses opened negotiations with the reformers, but a union was not effected until 1532. Since then the Waldenses have been pedobaptist (infant baptizers)." Today's Waldenses are modernistic, ecumenical, and more of a social Gospel organization than a Gospel preaching group. Their compromise is a clear warning to all true Baptist churches to avoid the compromises, no matter how insignificant they may seem, of the protestants and evangelicals, who would invite us into their ecumenical associations, and by so doing, eventually, and gradually, steal away our doctrine and identity. ■*

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,
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White