

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XX

September 13, 2015

Number 36

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Sun. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of September 6, 2015

Sunday School ----- 24
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 33
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 09/09/15 ----- 31

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of September 6, 2015

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,356.05
 Auditorium Air Conditioner Fund ----- \$ 25.00
Total Received for Week of 09/06/15: \$ 1,381.05

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

AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER FUND -

Amount For Entire Project ----- \$5,000.00
 Amount Received So Far ----- \$ 50.00
Total STILL NEEDED to pay off: \$4,950.00

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.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
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/Organist
 ----- Greeter
 Shayne Hooper, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Ella Allen ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford



What Does The New Testament Teach About Biblical Separation?

by Dr. Cooper Abrams, Baptist Missionary & Church Planter

Probably the most frequent criticism of the traditional Baptists concerns their stand on the doctrine of separation. It is not my intend to defend fundamentalism per se, but to defend the biblical doctrine of separation. I am a Baptist by conviction because the doctrine of conservative Baptist churches is the New Testament (and the Bible) which is our sole authority for our faith and practice. Because the doctrine of separation stands as biblical then the fundamentalist who upholds the doctrine in preaching and practice also stands defended as being biblical.

At the heart of biblical separation is discernment. Discernment comes from first receiving Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior and being indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. (II Cor. 2:11-15) This enables the believer to comprehend spiritual things. Actual discernment comes from studying the Word of God and learning its precepts. Discernment grows as the believer spiritually matures. Discernment then comes alive in the life of a believer through his faith and commitment to Christ Jesus.

At the heart of discernment is a heart felt love and commitment to God's Word. Without a commitment to the Word, discernment is a hollow doctrine without energy or life. Living a separated life as God's word teaches is a matter of having a deep unerring devotion to one's Saviour and to His word.

It is vital in this confusing day when the compromise of God's word is rampant, that God's people, preachers, and churches, know and practice biblical separation. It is critical that Christians, who have the calling and responsibility to be a testimony to the Gospel, and the preach the whole counsel of God's word, understand separation as presented in God's word. It has been rightly stated that often the doctrine is ignored at one end of the spectrum and used as a battle axe at the other. The doctrine of separation needs to be studied with as much attention and scholarship as any other doctrine of God's Word. To do less is to place ourselves into the hands of the one who is the benefactor of all false doctrine the Devil himself.

If the heart of the doctrine of separation is discernment, then the soul of separation is purity in life from sin and error. It is not a matter of just standing apart, but of standing with God. To stand in God's presence and in the center of His will one must be separated from sin and error. God is separated from sin, and He will not have fellowship with one who is callously living in sin or is condoning false doctrine and those that do. This is not a matter of God withholding his love, but a matter of God withholding his fellowship and the blessing of his presence and power to those who are in error. God cannot nor will bless error and sin. Sin separates a believer from the fellowship of God. The action of biblical separation is of being separated from sin and unto God. (Rom. 6:13) The natural course of biblical separation is a movement towards God and a deeper and closer relationship with Him.

There are several false conclusions drawn by those who do not understand biblical separation. One false idea is the one who practices biblical separation is uncaring, unloving or feels superior to those from whom he separates. Those that take this position see separation as a personal affront. It is an affront, but if separation is practiced biblically it is not personal. In fact the opposite is true. Biblical separation comes from a caring heart that loves the one who is in doctrinal error and seeks to lead them to what is correct. Taking a correct scriptural position sets a proper example that could lead one to the truth and into the blessings and fellowship of the Lord.

Who is the author of biblical separation? If it is God, do we also accuse God of being unloving because in everything He is
(continued inside)

separated from sin and error? The answer is obvious, God is love and in all He does is loving. That includes practicing separation from sin and evil doers. Condoning sin and doctrinal error is excusing it and compromising with doctrinal error is corrupting the truth. To be lenient with those who teach doctrinal error is to support lies. Clearly, God hates lies that enslave men and deny them the blessings of God. Truth set men free, and error enslaves them to continuing sin. (John 8:32) Further to support and stand with doctrinal error is to be a party to sin. Preaching and teaching doctrinal error is gross sin and condemned repeated by God in His word.

Doctrinal error is in fact a lie that is presented as truth. Who is the author of all lies? (John 8:44) How can true child of God defend those in doctrinal error and those that thrive in it. We should take off our blinders and see doctrinal error for what it is - sin, which God hates. We should understand that doctrinal error destroys lives and prevents God's people from growing, maturing and receiving God's blessing. It is love to condone sin that is so destructive in people's lives and separates them from God's love and fellowship?

We should ask those who criticize those of us who practice biblical separation is it truly a loving act to gloss over sin and doctrinal error, and ignore it. God says the wages of sin is death. All sin has its destructive result in the lives of the persons who practices it. Doctrinal error is no blessing to anyone, but it enslaves one to error. No, it is not an act of love for a Christian, pastor or church to excuse doctrinal error and not stand for the God's truth.

Let us get to the practical side of Biblical separation. Biblical separation is not an option for the child of God. It is a commandment. Let's look at the following verses let God speak on the matter.

Practicing Biblical Separation -

1. The Mandate from God -

God instructs believers to "try the Spirits" - ***“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them” (I John 4:1-6).***

"Trying the spirits" is a matter of seeking to determine those who are in truth from those who are in error. The warning is to be on the lookout for false prophets. What then is the purpose of seeking to determine if someone is in doctrinal error or not? John does not say in the verses what to do, but points out clearly that

those who deny the deity of Jesus Christ are Antichrists. It is assumed that any child of God would not have fellowship or support those who God says are against Christ.

2. Do not give a false teacher hospitality -

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (II John 9-11).

In these verses, John tells us what to do with these who are identified as antichrists. Let's be clear, an "antichrist" is one who is "against Christ" or presents false teaching instead of truth. The antichrist presents error under the guise of teaching truth. John say in verse 11, to be separate from them and not even let them in your house, neither bid them God speed. He instructs us that those who wish these false teachers well are partakers of his evil deeds. The identity of these antichrists are clearly shown as being those who do not ***“abideth in the doctrine of Christ.”*** The doctrine of Christ is His Word....and He is the Word as John 1:1 & 14 plainly states. God's assemblies are to preach the whole or all the counsel of the word of God. (Acts 20:27) The word "partaker" means having "fellowship" with and further to share in their error and become a partner to their sin.

Watch or be on guard for false teachers and regularly warn the congregation of them. ***“Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Act 20:26-32).***

Paul's calls these false teachers “grievous wolves” who do not spare the flock. The illustration presents false teachers in churches as ravenous wolves who destroy the lives of those in the churches. He said the wolves would come from outside and within the congregation (Verses 29-30) Paul says he for three years warned the church at Ephesus about this matter. Paul thought it important enough to regularly speak on the matter for three years. Jesus commended the Ephesians in Revelation 2:2, saying, ***“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars”***. Clearly Jesus thought it was commendable for the Church as Ephesus to ***“not bear them which are evil. . .who***

found them to be liars.” This is talking those who were in these churches who professed to be serving the Lord and who false claimed they were apostles of the Lord. It is loving to embrace those who by their unbiblical teaching show themselves to be wolves bent on destroying God's people?

3. Mark and avoid false teachers -

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil” (Rom. 16:17-19).

Paul uses the strong word "beseech" in commanding the congregation at Rome to mark and avoid false teachers. What was the basis of his instruction to separate from these false teachers? It was because they caused division and offenses contrary to doctrine. God is does not say what specific doctrine, but by the way the sentence is structured is means doctrine in general. Note to that in verse 18, He says these false teachers deceive by good works and fair speech and deceive the simple. The word "simple" means "naive" or innocent simplicity. Paul commends them for separating from these false teachers and says, ***"I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning that which is evil"*** which means that believers should not mix with this evil.

The basis of marking them and avoiding them was these people causes divisions and offenses “contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned.” This was not separation because of personality or other reasons, but because these people did not believe or accept sound doctrine and encouraged error among the brethren. Paul called their actions evil. It is not biblical or obeying God to accept evil for the sake of unity.

Jesus warned us against embracing false teachers in Matthew Chapter 7 -

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And

then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:13-23).

Jesus sound warned us about accepting a professing Christian or church just because they claimed to speak in Christ's name. Note who these people are that Jesus said were “workers of iniquity” whom He never knew. They were unsaved men who were professing to be Christians who called Jesus Lord, preached in Jesus' name, they cast out demons and did miracles. Yet our Lord and Saviour exposed these false teachers and said they were ravening wolves. He gave us further instructions to identify them saying that they would be disguised in sheep's clothing. That means they would be presenting themselves as brothers....as fellow sheep...when the truth was they were wolves.

Is it an act of love to put our arms around wolves prosing as sheep and let them into our churches and among the truth sheep giving them the opportunity to ravage them? It is sound to promote false teaches and thereby expose our churches to their error? Does such a policy help the cause of Christ or hinder it? A true under shepherd and pastor of the Lord Jesus Christ would teach his congregation all God's truth and be ever vigilant in watching for the false teacher. No, no it is not an act of having a love of the sheep and to care for them by condoning lies presented as God's truth.

4. Let false teachers be accursed -

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:6-11).

In the strongest words possible Paul twice says let false teachers be accursed. These men who “troubled” the Galatian church were not pagans or idol worshipers outside the assembly, but teaches who had entered into and have been received by the congregation. The word "accursed" means “anathema” or dedicated or given over to be destroyed. The same word "anathema" was used in pagan temples of the virgin who was to be sacrificed to the idol. She was consider “anathema” or dedicated to be destroyed. He says these false teachers preach a "another gospel, which is not another." This statement should clarify the matter for all that mix and pollute teach lies that is not "the" Gospel. In verse 10, Paul boldly proclaims in the face of obvious criticism that he will not compromise God's word to please men, but rather message is clear, he will preach the truth and please God.

(continued next week)