

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: Mary Byars
Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
Sun. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
Cradle Roll 2: Seth White
Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of September 13, 2015

Sunday School ----- 27
Sunday Morning Service ----- 35
Sunday Evening Service ----- 35
Wed. Eve. Service, 09/16/15 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of September 13, 2015

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 877.51
Auditorium Air Conditioner Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 09/13/15: \$ 887.51

**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 ----- \$ 35.00
Total STILL NEEDED to pay off: \$4,965.00

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
(continued from last week)

The details of how this false teachers gained excess and power in the Galatian church is not revealed. However, it is clear that at some point these false teachers began to preach their doctrinal error and sadly, it appears no one in this congregation questioned them or rebuked them. The Galatian assembly did not practice biblical separation, which could have avoided their apostasy.

Here lies the heart of the matter. To not practice Biblical separation is to accept ecumenicalism.

Those who criticize those who seek to live separated lives; who preach ecumenicalism do so using worldly wisdom. They think it is loving and caring to overlook doctrinal error and sin and to not embarrass those who practice these things. They take great pride from their supposed superior position saying they preach love instead of hate. It is well said we are to love the sinner and hate his sin. But is it really an act of love to put the stamp of approval on doctrinal error and sin, by ignoring it, thus letting it destroy the one who is practicing it?

Peter under the inspiration of God addressed the matter pointedly saying:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (II Peter 2:1-3).

Note that Peter calls the teaching of these false prophets "damnable heresies." Further he warns that many will follow them. This is the reason for the mandate of biblical separation, to keep these heretics out of God's churches and to protect the flock from their damnable ways. The motive of these false teachers is also revealed in that they do so they can make merchandise of God's children. They do it for personal gain, whether it be money, being a popular preacher of a large church, or seeking the vain favor of men.

Sadly, most of these "preachers" in who condone false teachings often gravitate to the pulpit seeking an audience and to be seen of men. Like Diotrophes, who loved to have the preeminence among the brethren these "hirelings" too love the praise of men. To maintain their position they are "man pleasers" (Gal. 1:10). Paul foretold of their coming saying, ***"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4).***

And yes, the other motive is the love of money - the "root of all evil." (I Tim. 6:10) These compromisers and false teachers receive ill gotten gain from their sorted work of making merchandise of God's people. It is an act of love and pleasing to God to condone these false brethren?

Many pastors and preaches take the easy road to avoid the difficulties that come when a man stands for the truth in the face of opposition. It is no fun to be criticized, and ostracized by others. It takes a strong faith and commitment to stand in the face of such pressure.

5. We're Not to Be Unequally Yoked with Unbelievers - "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And
(continued inside)

what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (II Cor. 6:14-17).

The principle of separation here is illustrated by comparing it to unequally yoked oxen. The analogy is very apparent. Unbelievers and believers are not equal and cannot work together. In other words truth and lies do not go together. A false teacher is surely an unbeliever and is referred to in this verse as being unrighteous and in darkness. Verse 15, says they are of "Belial" which is a name for Satan and calls them infidels. In verse 17, Paul here too uses strong language to say, "*come out from among them and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...*" The last phrase of the passages says "*be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*" This means you cannot be in fellowship with the Lord and **not** be separated from sin.

Yet, those who criticize those who believe God and follow His instructions and practice biblical separation ignore this verse completely or seek to mislead through false interpretation. Who then is pleasing the Lord? The compromiser who embraces false teachers and false churches or the one who obeys God and makes a distinction between false doctrine and God's truth, between error and lies?

6. Abstain from Every Appearance of Evil - *“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (I Thess. 5:22).*

This verse, too, is dealing with biblical separation from evil and sin in any form. It is the broadest of all the verses and plainly states to “abstain” from all appearance of evil. To “abstain” means to “hold one’s self off from” or to “refrain from.” It not false doctrine evil. God clearly throughout His word over and over again condemns sin and false and idolatrous teachers. Is standing beside them, and working with those in doctrinal error “refraining” evil? The answer is obviously no.

7. Obey Not Their Word and Have No Company with Them - *“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (II Thess. 3:13-15).*

It is no fun to be criticized for obeying the Lord and seeking to please Him. Yet, the biblical separationists often finds himself the object of disdain from the ecumenicalists who with open arms accepts all who profess to be Christians with no effort to “try the spirits” or “examine their fruit.” But God says to separate from false teachers and sin. Verse 15 explains an important truth that the biblical separationist understands....the goal and purpose of biblical separation is not to treat a brother as

an enemy but rather to rebuke his sin and error and turn him to the truth. As the Lord says in James, *“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”*(James 5:20). False doctrine is not God’s word and thereby cannot save a soul nor give sound instruction to the believer. II Timothy 3:16-17 says *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* We are to worship God in “spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) Only the word of God can save and mature a believer in Christ.

Thus, the biblical separationist is seek biblical restoration with an erring brother and a position of receiving the benefits of believing and living by God’s truth. There is no pride in true biblical separation, only true “agape” love for one’s brother. As Paul stated in Galatians 4:16 - *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”*

8. Withdraw from Those Who Will Not Follow Paul's Teaching- *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you” (II Thess. 3:6).*

The New Testament very matter-of-factly commands, not suggests or recommends, but commands Christians to withdraw from the brother who walks disorderly. The word “disorderly” refers to one who is out of ranks or deviates from the teachings of the Apostle Paul (biblical traditions). This would include personal sin and Paul’s doctrine. The Bible does not support the idea that we are to embrace everyone regardless of his sin or doctrinal error. Once again God says we are to stand for His word and to be separate.

This of course in our modern time is not popular and will bring the one who practices biblical separation much scorn. The unseparated professing Christian is offended at those who hold uncompromisingly to the biblical standard.

9. How These Religious People Treat and Look at Them Who Hold the Truth - *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:10-14).*

Paul warned us that evil men and seduces would wax worse and worse. Note that these evil men are called “seducers.” It is plain their prey is Christians and their goal is to deceive for what ever their motives may be. The answer is not to condone false doctrine or compromise God’s truth with mixing it with error. As the passage points out the answer is in preaching God’s truth because it and it alone can make the *“man of God...perfect and thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:17b).*

10. Seeking Unity in Association, but Not in Doctrine - The belief is stated by the dictum, **“In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity.”** Another phrase often heard is **“Let’s not major on the minors.”** The question this demands we answer is what is essential and what is not major? What part of God's word are we at liberty to ignore. The phrases mean that some believe that there are doctrinal truths that are not essential to salvation and thus they are not important. What this means those who whole this philosophy think that some doctrines are not important and can be discarded if they interfere with fellowship or unity. In reality to stand for the “essentials” is to stand for the whole word of God. God commands that believers are to separate themselves from worldliness and false teaching. God says *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)*

Paul warned about divisions in the local congregation. He said we are to mark them and avoid them. *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).*

For Example - Should a biblical church have fellowship and work in cooperation with a church or individuals who do not believe in the eternal security of the believer? Would the Lord Jesus approve of a biblical congregation having fellowship and unity with churches and individuals who are actively involved in the modern tongues movement? Should a Bible believing Christian or church join in unity with the doctrinally false Reformed movement or the Arminians? Biblical separation rebukes false teaching and practices and stands for God’s truth. Unity that ignores sound doctrine never brings anyone to Christ, but rather places a stumbling block to finding Christ and His truth. The unity God wants believers to have is biblical unity.

God says *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:11-18).*

The doctrine of biblical separation precludes a true believer or

a Bible believing church from being a part of any church, organization, denomination that practices and is committed to unbelief. God says, *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (II Corinthians 6:14)*

Over the years, many have visited the churches which I pastored. They heard the word of God preached in truth, sincerity, and with the love and compassion of God. They were each warmly welcomed by myself and our congregation and we reached out to them in Christian love. When their false beliefs came out we tactfully unoffensively explained to them from God’s word what we believed and practiced. Yet, many turned away from us because of our compromising stand for God’s truth. They were offended because we would not ignore their false believers and practices. They just wanted us to all join together in the love of Christ.

We thank the Lord that others responded positively and became an important part of our congregation. What a blessing and encouragement they are who hold God’s word in truth and will join with those who love the Lord. How tragic also it is that they continued live in unbelief and as John explained *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (I John 2:19).* It would have been a mistake to allow these people to infiltrate our congregation which would have been an act of condoning their unbelief and permitting their polluting influence among God’s people. *“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Gal. 5:9).* Although this is not a pleasing response to some, it is certainly pleasing to our God and Savior and we make no apology.

The Challenge - If you are one of those who have compromised God word and criticized the biblical separationist, not understanding the biblical doctrine of separation, this article was written for you. If you truly do love the brethren, do you not see that the Lord would be pleased by you obeying him and abandoning your ecumenical ideas and practices of condoning error and sin and coming to God’s truth. Let God’s word speak to your heart and direct your path? He says to you:

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:11-18).