

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XVIII

November 17, 2013

Number 34

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: LeAnna White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 10, 2013

Sunday School ----- 12
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 32
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 11/13/13 ----- 26

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of November 10, 2013


Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 917.25
 Total Received for Week of 10/10/13: \$ 917.25

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
 Shayne Hooper, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR NOV., 2013:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 329.66
 Amount Received thusfar during Nov., 2013 ----- \$ 0.00
 Amount STILL NEEDED by Dec. 5, 2013 = \$ 329.66

A Tale of Three Cities: Where the Bible Versions Began

by the late Dr. David F. Reagan, Pastor
 Antioch Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee
(continued from last week)

A *Tale Of Three Cities* begins in the Roman Empire during the time of Christ. The three cities (Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch) were the three largest and most influential cities in the Roman Empire. Yet, to the Christian, their influence concerning Bible corruption and preservation is of much greater importance.

As capital of the Roman Empire and the empire's largest city, **ROME** ruled the ancient world. Rome emphasized form, legalism, and tradition. Through tradition, Rome became the center of Biblical addition. The Apocrypha is one example of how Rome added to scripture. From Italy, Rome dominated the theology and spiritual life of southern Europe and northern Africa.

Alexandria, Egypt, the second largest city, was the world capital for science, education, and scholarship. Great minds gravitated to Alexandria. This home town of Philo and Origen dominated the theology of surrounding Egypt and Palestine. As is the practice of modern scholarship, Alexandria subtracted from the Word of God. *The Alexandrian Text is still the basis of modern Bible corruptions.*

The third largest city of the empire was **Antioch of Syria**. Located in the East, Antioch dominated the regions of Syria and Asia minor, the lands of early apostolic work. Antioch was known for her luxury and cosmopolitan flavor, but also for a literal interpretation of scripture. Although belittled by the scholarship of today, the Syrian Text was the underlying basis for the King James Version of 1611.

These three cities were located in three important countries on three different continents. They represented the three major races. Why are they so important? How did these cities become so influential in the historical transmission of the Biblical Text? These questions and more are to be answered in the following text. **But never forget that God promised to preserve His Word.** Our greatest concern should never be to judge or criticize the Word, but to find it, then read it, study it, memorize it, obey it, teach it, preach it, and if necessary, die for it.

Last week, we looked at Alexandria. This week, we will look at the city of

Rome

Rome is located in the country of Italy on the continent of Europe. The date of the founding of the city of Rome is unknown. In the ancient world and in the Christian world, Rome's greatest influence was in the areas of form and organization. This influence was already increasing eight centuries before the time of Christ. Rome gained control of the Italian peninsula about 275 BC. By 133 BC, Rome governed a world empire stretching from Syria to Spain. At the time of Christ, Rome was the largest city in the world (population: 1.2 million) and was capital of the Roman Empire. It eventually became the center of the Roman Catholic Church and since 1871 has been the capital of the country of Italy.

Biblical Mention

The city of Rome is mentioned by name none times in the Bible. Of these nine references, special attention needs to be given to

(continued inside)

the one in II Timothy 1:17. The Apostle Paul wrote II Timothy while in a Roman prison, and in this epistle he praises a man named Onesiphorus because he refreshed Paul and, "**was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me**" (II Tim. 1:16-17). Rome was, therefore, known as a place which persecuted Christians. When Constantine declared Christianity to be the state religion, this persecution did not cease. Those who stood for their beliefs still suffered at the hands of the developing church-state.

Attention also needs to be given to an indirect reference to the city of Rome in the prophetic book of Revelation. The seventeenth chapter of Revelation speaks of the mother of harlots who will be drunken with the blood of the saints. She is clearly the one world religion which will deceive multitudes during the great tribulation. The woman is said to be, "**that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth**" (Rev. 17:18). The identification of the city is made in verse nine which states, "**The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.**" Over and over again Rome is identified by ancient historians as the city of seven hills or seven mountains. Therefore, Rome will be the center of the future one world religion.

Doctrinal Development

The doctrinal development of Rome can most easily be understood by the study of three men. Although these three men were not born in Rome, they greatly influenced the city by advancing the position of Roman supremacy, by translating the Roman Catholic bible, and by establishing the Roman method of Bible interpretation.

The first man, **Cyprian** (195-258 AD), did much to develop the doctrine of Roman supremacy. During the first centuries after Christ, the churches of several large cities were elevated to high positions of respect and authority. Rome was only one of these important cities. However, Cyprian taught the doctrine of the primacy of the Roman church over the other churches. He further claimed that anyone outside the Catholic Church was lost and therefore made way for the Roman Catholic monopoly of salvation. The teachings of Cyprian were later used by Roman Catholicism to establish its tremendous political strength over the majority of Christians during the Middle Ages.

The second man, **Jerome** (340-420 AD), is important because of his influence on the Bible. He lived as a hermit for several years. Later (with the help of several lady benefactors) he started a monastery in Bethlehem. He strongly promoted self-denial, the celibacy of the clergy, and the worship of Mary. Around 382 AD Pope Damasus commissioned him to retranslate the New Testament into Latin. He used the work of Origen to help in his translation which was later accepted as the official Roman Catholic bible. Copies of the already existing Old Latin Vulgate, which agreed more closely with the true text, were discarded and often destroyed. Jerome's Latin Vulgate triumphed at the expense of pure copies of the Word.

The third man, **Augustine** (354-430 AD), was bishop of Hippo,

North Africa, for many years. Although there is not space to discuss his doctrine, his method of interpretation needs to be considered. He established what came to be known as the western type of interpretation which teaches that the scripture must conform to the interpretation of the church. Thus he led the way for the Roman Catholic requirement that bible interpretation must adapt itself to the tradition of the church.

In some ways the Romans could be compared to the Pharisees of whom Christ said, "**Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition**" (Matt. 15:9). And again, "**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**" (Matt. 15:9). Some of the unscriptural ideas of the Roman Catholic Church (such as monasticism and infant baptism) may have developed in Alexandria, but they were established as lasting traditions by Rome.

Biblical Corruption

Although Alexandrian scholarship subtracted from the Word, Roman tradition added to the Word. However opposite these approaches may seem, the two movements joined in the development of the Roman Catholic bibles. Rome took Alexandria's diluted bible and added to it according to its traditions. This resulted in the corrupted bibles which we still have with us today.

The unchanging practice of Roman Catholicism has been to place tradition above the Word. However, this practice was made a dogma at the Council of Trent in 1546. This council declared that the apocryphal books together with unwritten tradition are to be received and venerated as the Word of God. In elevating tradition, God's Word has been lowered. In truth, this makes the Word of God of none effect.

The tendency to add to the Word of God can be seen in the two most influential manuscripts of the last century, the Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus. The Vatican manuscript was discovered in the Vatican library in 1481. It was discounted by early Greek scholars but was elevated by Westcott and Hort in the translation of the Revised Version in 1881, four hundred years after its discovery. This manuscript adds the Epistle of Barnabas as well as the apocryphal books to the text of its New Testament. The Sinaitic manuscript was found in St. Catherine's Monastery at the base of Mt. Sinai in 1844. It contains the Shepherd of Hermas and the Epistle of Barnabas in its New Testament text. This tendency to add to the Word of God can also be found in the New American Standard Version of the English bible. Located at the end of Mark in large capital letters is the word ADDITION after which follows a short paragraph. A marginal note explains that a few later manuscripts and versions contain this paragraph. Absolutely no indication is given as to whether this is the Word of God or not.

Conclusion about Rome

The New Testament was being corrupted by men who claimed to be correcting it even before all of the New Testament books were written (II Cor. 2:17). There have always been and will

always be those who handle, "**the word of God deceitfully**" (II Cor. 4:2). The two major motives for changing the word of God are Scholarship and tradition. Scholarship, as found in Alexandria, usually subtracts from the Word while tradition, as found in Rome, usually adds to the Word. These two influences explain the corrupted bibles of today. Bible study, therefore, becomes a process of multiple choice. If you like it, leave it in. If you do not like it, take it out. If you want it, but it's not there, put it in. Why allow the Bible to change us when we can so easily change the Bible?

But what of God's pure Word? Is there not a preserved Bible in existence? The answer is **yes!** God has not left Himself without an absolute witness of truth. **He has preserved His Word!** Next week, in the next chapter we will consider the power of preservation and God's use of Antioch of Syria as well as the surrounding areas of Syria and Asia Minor to keep His Word pure from the corrupting influence of man.

- continued next week

CLOTHING AND SEXUALITY: MALE VS. FEMALE

There are those who, while attracting the attentions of men, are unaware of how forcefully their immodest apparel stimulates fiery passions within the opposite sex. An immodestly dressed woman may think a man is simply admiring her - and she likes to be admired - but often there is much more going on within him. Because a man's passions are triggered more easily, the sight of a woman's nakedness or the curves of her body have a seductive effect on his heart and flesh.

A good comparison was made in **Reflections of Feminine Modesty** that will help explain this truth:

"If a nice-looking man were constantly coming up to you and stroking your arms or your neck or your shoulders and gently touching you, how would that affect you? Sensually! That is the same effect a woman has on a man when he sees her wearing a short skirt, a tight or low cut, see-through, or sleeveless blouse, or a pair of pants."

Though a woman may not realize the degree that her immodest dress affects men, she certainly knows that her behavior attracts a great interest, and she knows furthermore that it is a sexual interest.

When a woman cares more about being noticed than the well-being of others, she is desperately lacking the love of God in her heart. "**Charity seeketh not her own. It vaunteth not itself**" (I Corinthians 13:4-6).

God has not given us liberty to dress any way we please:

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

When we love the Lord as we should, our clothing will not be

selected in order to attract attention to ourselves. When we love mankind as God loves them, we will desire to have a godly influence on them.

- from *Modesty a Matter of the Heart* by Kathy Murray

HUMMINGBIRD WRISTWATCH

When you remember something that happened and where and when it happened, you are using what scientists call episodic memory. Scientists have traditionally thought that such memory was unique to man. Other scientists suspected that possibly some creatures may have episodic memory.

For example, take the hummingbird with its fast metabolism. They need to eat often and remember where reliable sources of nutrition are to be found. At the same time, different flowers regenerate nectar at different rates. Researchers went to the natural habitat of the rufous hummingbird, equipped with some fake flowers and sugar water. The manmade flowers were constructed with reservoirs that could hold the sugar water. Half the flowers were refilled ten minutes after a bird would feed from it, while the other half were refilled twenty minutes after a feeding.

Researchers found that the birds quickly learned which flowers were filled at which intervals. They soon returned to the flowers that were filled every ten minutes at ten-minute intervals while they waited twenty minutes in between visits to the other flowers. They noted that the birds did a good job of this even though they were keeping track of eight flowers. It makes more sense to believe that episodic memory is a sophisticated ability that is the gift from a caring God to those creatures whom He knew would need it.

- from *Creation Moments*, 10/30/2013

