

February, 2013

the
preacher's
favorite
passage

THE MOST IGNORED VERSE

HELLO
my name is
Col. 3:17

BY: CHRIS BLACKWELL

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The prophet Jeremiah stated in Jeremiah 10:23, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” When the Lord designed and made us He never intended for us to live by our standards or according to what we think is right, but rather live in submission to Him and depend upon Him (Proverbs 3:5-6). In order to live a life that pleases and glorifies God, we must know what to do in any given situation. This is the beauty of the Bible. There has never been, nor will there ever be a predicament someone finds himself in and that the Bible is not able to navigate him through it. Constant prayers of thanks should be sent to the throne of God for loving us so much that He gave His Son for us and gave us His word, our road map, as we walk the narrow way (Matthew 7:13-14).

When I think about traveling down that narrow, difficult way called faith, one verse in particular always comes to mind, Colossians 3:17. Here, Paul by inspiration writes, “And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” This is one sentence that can be uttered in a handful of seconds, but its application in our lives has eternal consequences. Let us then take a moment and notice some key points in this verse.

“...WHATEVER YOU DO...”

The verse starts out by saying, “And whatever you do in word or deed.” This first phrase tells us that this principle deals with every facet of our lives; there are no exceptions, which is a point that cannot be stressed enough. Unfortunately, there are many Christians that believe God does not have a say in their “secular” or “private” lives. It has been said by some brothers and sisters in Christ, “What I do in the privacy of my home is my business!” Such people truly believe that as long as they are not in a worship assembly, God has

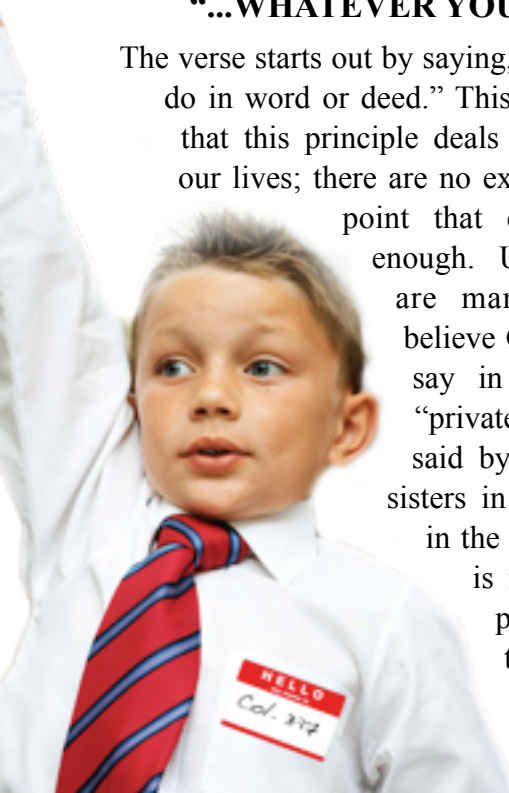
left them up to their own devices. This kind of thinking is distorted, deceiving, and deadly. This false thinking has been used to rationalize numerous sins, including going to crude and obscene movies, listening to ungodly music, and the drinking of beverage alcohol.

Why are more and more of our brethren choosing to behave this way? The answer is because it is easy. It takes little to no effort to simply do whatever one wants to do. This is precisely why the broad way Jesus spoke about is chosen by so many (Matthew 7:13). Does God care about what we do on Sunday morning? Absolutely! In John chapter 4, when Jesus was speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, He tells her in verse 24, “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” What so many desperately need to realize is that God is equally concerned with what music we listen to on Monday morning, He cares what movie we choose to see Saturday night, and yes, He even cares about what beverage is in our cups in the “privacy of our own homes.” Proverbs 15:3 reads, “The eyes of the LORD *are* in **every place**, keeping watch on the evil and the good.” The first line of Colossians 3:17 makes it clear that whether we are in worship or work, in public or private, our conduct and speech must reflect what we are, who we are, and who we belong to.

“...IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS...”

Next, let us notice the second part of Colossians 3:17, “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” This is not a difficult phrase to understand. Imagine driving down a busy road and seeing a man standing in the middle of the street attempting to direct traffic by yelling at all the cars to stop in the name of Bob. Not only is this man not going to be successful in his attempt, but he is very likely to be seriously injured. Now imagine that same man standing in the same street with a police uniform on saying, “Stop in the name of the law.” In the latter scenario, most everyone would stop, because they realize he is saying stop by the **authority** of the law, whereas in the first scenario there was no authority attached to the name Bob. The term *in the name of* is rightly translated by *the authority of*.

“And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).” Jesus has the right and authority to instruct us. He is the author of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9), the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), and the preeminent one (Colossians 1:17-18). It is because of all these things that the Lord has the final say in every word and deed in our life. One of the greatest tragedies throughout history has been man’s refusal to humble himself in the sight of the Lord (James



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concerned about me?

Can I really **trust** the **Bible**?

So many **churches** ... is one as
good as another?

Will this **world** **end** one day? What
happens then?

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4:10), and the fruits of this refusal are very evident today.

We live in a world of religious confusion. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, there are approximately 41,000 Christian denominations and organizations in the world. Each one of these groups claim to be a follower of Christ, yet each has its own unique set of beliefs and practices. Sadly, the Lord's church has not been immune to this confusion. Topics such as baptism being essential for salvation, instrumental music in worship, and the role of women in worship are starting to be debated among members of the church of Christ. The refusal to submit to the authority of Christ has had heart breaking results, and this point has never been clearer than it was on December 3, 2006. On that day, in my home state of Texas, the largest church of Christ in the United States added an instrumental service. Due to this congregation's sheer size, word spread from coast to coast of their departure from scripture. For some outside of the body of Christ, the news of this congregation's perversion might have been the first thing they had ever heard about the church. There is no telling the amount of damage that has been done to the cause of Christ due to their decision.

Why do these tragedies happen? What causes what were once faithful preachers to begin to preach error? What causes the mass confusion in the Christian world today? The answer is very simple, it is a refusal to see and submit to authority. When we do all in the name of Jesus, that is, by His authority, we will call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways. When we do all by the authority of our Lord it will change our social life. We will talk differently, we will walk differently, and we will live differently. Every knee shall bow (Romans 14:11), this will be a fearful thing for those who attempted to be their own authority, but it will be a joyful homecoming to those who did not depart to the right or the left (Proverbs 4:27).

Colossians 3:17 ends with, "giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Of all people on the face of the earth, Christians ought to be the most thankful. We have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13), thereupon we have "Blessed Assurance." The term *giving thanks* is written in the present tense, signifying that an attitude of gratitude ought to characterize our entire lifestyle.

Attempting to count one's blessings in Christ is paramount to going out on a clear night and attempting to count the stars! I am reminded of the words of David in Psalm 8:4, "What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?" It is so easy to go

through life and become angry about the thorns among the roses, but Christians ought to give thanks for the roses among the thorns. Even in our darkest hour, God will not leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5); this awe-inspiring fact should lead us to live a life characterized by thankfulness to our God.

God is concerned with every portion of our life. He wants us to submit to His authority and conduct ourselves with an attitude of gratitude. These are all lessons that we learn from Colossians 3:17. As we started off by saying in the beginning, it is indeed just one sentence that can be uttered in mere seconds, but it indeed has eternal ramifications.

Chris Blackwell is the husband of Kayla Blackwell and the father of two wonderful little girls, Mariah and Hannah. He is the youth minister at the Warner Robins Church of Christ and is a graduate of Faulkner University.



The Best Part

The best part of anything having to do with the Bible and the divine God in Heaven is the fact that He has provided a way by which a man can be saved from his sins. Paul wrote that every single person, attempting to justify himself by way of his own means, has fallen short of the mark and has therefore been guilty of trespasses (Romans 3:23). But, thanks be to God, He has not left us alone in order to find our salvation! He has sent Himself, in Jesus Christ, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of all man's sins (John 3:16).

BUT, we have to access that salvation which is freely available. How does someone do that?

Hear - Romans 10:17

Believe - John 8:24

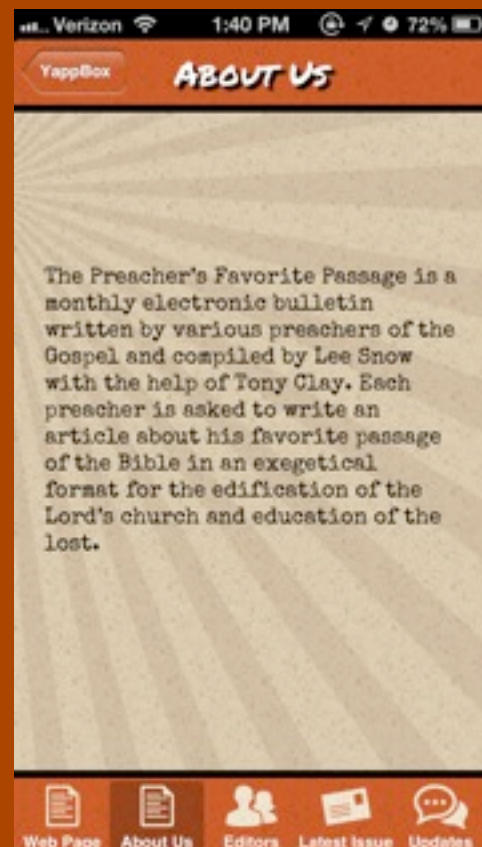
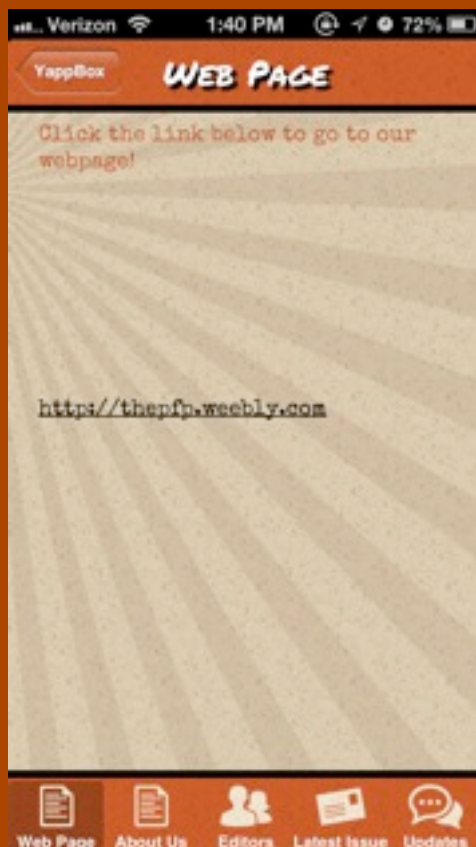
Repent - Acts 2:38

Confess - Romans 10:9-10

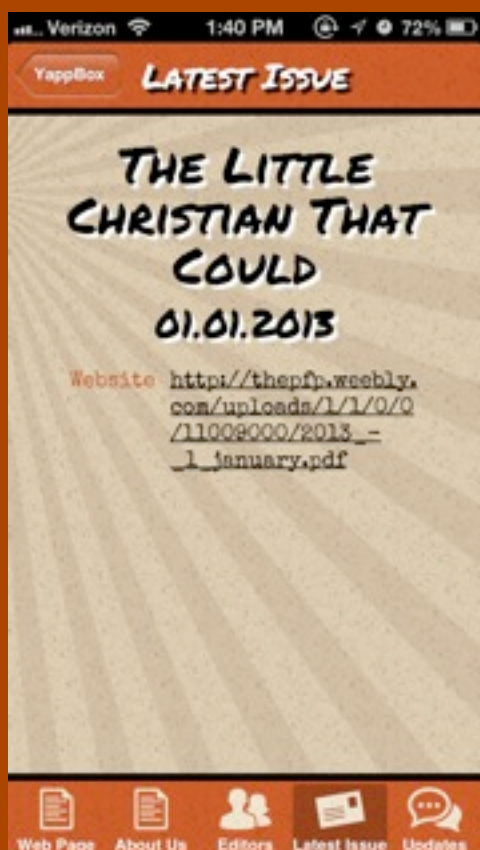
Be Baptized - Mark 16:16

If you have not done these things, or have never even heard such things, please contact us at the PFP. We would love to help you in your spiritual life so that you can be accepted by the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9).

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SAY WHAT?

with Tony Clay

It is highly unlikely that you have never heard words to spoken such as these: one day, Jesus will come again; He will rapture the Christians and take them to heaven, leaving non-Christians behind to suffer through a seven year period known as the *tribulation* where the “anti-Christ will reign; Then Jesus will return again and defeat the anti-Christ and establish His kingdom on earth and bind Satan which will reign for one thousand years during which time the nation of Israel is restored along with temple worship, priesthood and sacrifices; then Satan will be loosed one last time and destroyed, then there will be the “Great White Throne

Judgment” where all the dead will be raised and judged into their eternal state.

That is quite a mouthful to say all at once, but is what is widely accepted by the majority of “Christendom.” The question this column wants to ask is, “Is the true or false?” It is this writer’s belief that this doctrine is among the most puzzling things we hear from religious folk and is one those things that causes us to raise an eyebrow and exclaim, “Say What?”

Let us start by pointing out a major implications of this doctrine. First off, it is implied that Jesus is a failure. This doctrine makes the same mistake that many during Jesus’ time made regarding the kingdom. It takes the position that Jesus’ intent was to come to earth and establish a physical kingdom where he would personally reign from Jerusalem.

Premillennialism proponents assert that Jesus was caught off guard by Jewish opposition and therefore failed in His task of establishing the physical, earthly kingdom and resorted to establish the church to tide us over until His eventual return. This writer would declare to you that these things are wholly flawed and are false. The inspired Scriptures prove beyond a shadow of a doubt of such things. John 18:36 records the words of Christ which declare, “My Kingdom is not of this world.” Jesus faced this misconception from many of His followers who expected Him to make a run for the throne and release them from the power that Rome had on them. Jesus explained to them that His kingdom transcended this earthly realm, implying that because it wasn’t of *this* world, it was therefore of the spiritual world. Additionally, one cannot believe in the Deity and perfection of Christ and claim that He failed in any thing that He set out to do. Jesus did all that He set out to do and that is how He could have set with any meaning at all, “It is finished.”

Let us consider further problems that this doctrine has with the New Testament. Will Jesus literally rule from the throne in Jerusalem? Perhaps a more important question would be, “Can Jesus rule from Jerusalem and remain perfect and consistent in everything?” The reason that question is asked is because of the curse pronounced in Jeremiah 22 beginning at verse 24 and continuing through the end of the chapter. What is being depicted is the curse against Coniah (a.k.a. Jechoniah, Jehoiachin). The Bible says that no descendant of Coniah will rule from the throne of David; It is revealed that Jesus was from Coniah’s seed line in the genealogy of Jesus of Matthew 1 (specifically verse 12). In order to avoid causing a biblical contradiction, Jesus will never sit on the throne of David, that is to rule in Jerusalem, which is what is claimed by premillennialism.

Consider also that Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. This means that Jesus, like Melchizedek, is a prophet, priest and king at the same time. Hebrews 7:17 declares that not only is Jesus a priest after the order of Melchizedek, but that He will remain so *for ever*. A question that is raised in this writer’s mind is, “How can Jesus be a priest on earth?” The Hebrews writer tells us just a few verses earlier in Hebrews 7, “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.” (Hebrews 7:12-14; Emp. TC). We can clearly see through this passage that Jesus cannot reign from Earth because He is a prophet, priest and king after the order of Melchizedek; the change in the priesthood cementing this, but also Jesus being prohibited according to the Levitical priesthood.

Space won’t allow us to examine every facet of Premillennialism, so we encourage you to study further on this subject and be equipped to answer such a doctrine as this, biblically. Thanks be to Jesus, who is reigning on the right hand of the throne of God at this very moment! Thanks be to God for the establishment of His kingdom and for the salvation we can obtain through Christ. May we ever labor in His service to follow Jesus: our prophet who mediated between us and God, our priest who offered the final sacrifice for sins for ever, and our king who reigns now and forever and who gives us *every spiritual blessing in heavenly places* (Eph. 1:3). To God be the glory!



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As I write this I have just finished completing a yearly ritual in my life... preparing my fishing tackle for the first trip of the year. I love fishing but for the last three years or so it has become something is a bit of a challenge for me. You see, my wife, Rebeka, is what I would call a fishing shark. She out-fishes me every time we go together regardless of the type of fishing we are doing! Now, mind you, I have never been someone you would count on to fill the cooler for the upcoming fish fry but I'm a man so I'm supposed to say I'm the best at it, right?

Anyways, enough of my quasi self loathing. What lead me to be thinking about Rebeka's superior fishing skills is another thing that is on the horizon, other than a fun fishing trip during which I am 99% sure that I will be humiliated, and that is the upcoming Gospel meeting here at Gray with a good friend of mine, Billy Hayes. Tomorrow, before our trip to the lake, I will call the local printer in order to prepare our flyers for the meeting and then we will have the necessary tools for what has been called "door knocking".

Alright, I'm sure you are wondering what this preacher is rambling on about and for what reason so let's make the connection!

Rebeka will most likely always be better than me at fishing. That has been accepted by this point. But, I'm still going to go with her and try to do my best. Often times, a Christian will cease to evangelize because they "aren't good" at talking to people about the Lord. They see the preacher, who's probably one of the more evangelistically apt people of the congregation, doing the work the

way he has been trained and feel as though they are not able to do the same.

With this short editorial let me, a preacher, remind you, whether or not you are a preacher, that we ought never give up on the work of the Lord because of our own *perceived* shortcomings. I have seen extremely shy Christians muster up enough courage to knock a door or mention Christ to the person in the grocery line. I've seen a brand new Christian, only knowledgable to the point of knowing how to be saved from his sins, be able to sit down and help their family understand the same thing.

It really doesn't matter what WE think we are capable of, the Lord *knows* that we are all capable of great things. If He didn't, do we really think He would command each and every Christian to go into the world and preach His good news to the people of that world? There will always be the person that is better than us at whatever endeavor we take, but that doesn't mean that we cannot get better and still do wonders.

And whenever I look at other, much more evangelistically able, preachers I always remember the statement of a very wise preacher...

"YOU CAN DO IT!" - Bobby Liddell

- Lee Snow



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