

May, 2013



a Picture of Salvation



By Dalton Gilreath

Joshua 2:9-19



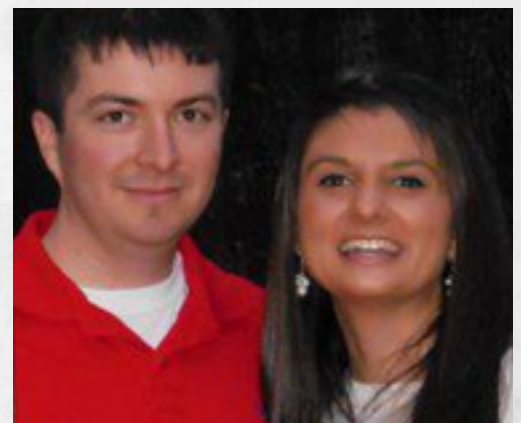
CONTENTS

You can click the page description to jump to your desired page!

Page 2.....	Contents/Writer's Biography
Page 3.....	A Picture of Salvation - Dalton Gilreath
Page 4.....	What Is Catholicism? - OHP
Page 5.....	Editors Addition with Lee Snow
Page 6.....	A Picture of Salvation (continued)
Page 7.....	IBC - Durham Church of Christ
Page 8.....	Q&A with Billy Hayes
Page 9.....	Soldier to Soldier
Page 10.....	How To Preach @ A Youth Event - Chris Clevenger
Page 11.....	Founding Faith - Soldier to Soldier
Page 12.....	Say What? with Tony Clay
Page 13.....	R16:16 Web Directory
Page 14.....	Worship - Nathaniel Ferguson
Page 15.....	Keep Calm & Register - The PFP

WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY

Dalton Gilreath is the Youth and Family Minister at the [Airport Rd. Church of Christ](#) in Hot Springs, AR. He is a graduate of [Jacksonville State University](#) and [Bear Valley Bible Institute](#). Dalton and his wife Amber are great workers for the Lord.



a Picture of Salvation

By Dalton Gilreath

9 And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

16 And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.

17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

The Old Testament is an incredible source of spiritual learning (Romans 15.4). It is filled with symbolism and shadows of the truths of Christ's law we hold so dear. Take the Passover, for example, which shadowed the sacrifice of our perfect lamb, Christ Jesus. Or we could discuss the items within the holy place of the tabernacle and their symbolism of worship within the church of Christ today. Genesis to Malachi is filled with wonderful, inspired images pointing to the message of the cross. One of these shadows happens to be found in chapter two of the book of Joshua. Here, in my opinion, we find one of the greatest pictures of salvation from the Old Testament. At this point the forty years of wondering has ended for the Israelites and their conquest of the promised land is beginning. Their first step is conjuring battle plans to destroy the city of Jericho. As this process begins a couple of spies are sent to scout the land. However, this news reaches the ear of Jericho's king who immediately sends soldiers to retrieve the spies. As it turns out the two Israelites end up at the home of a harlot named Rahab who hides them from the king's men. Their time with Rahab turns out to be an opportunity of salvation for her family. Interestingly, the conversation between the spies and Rahab turns out to be one of the greatest pictures in the Old Testament of the salvation which we have in Christ Jesus.

In verses nine and ten of the second chapter of Joshua, Rahab tells the spies that the people of the land have "heard" about God and his mighty works. She states, "I know that the Lord hath given you the land..." as if it had already taken place (KJV). Rahab had heard of God, His people, and His will for them. This knowledge led her to have genuine faith (Hebrews 11.31). Faith that was so sure of God's will it was as if it had already come to pass.

Next, Rahab tells the spies that when the people heard about this omnipotent God their "hearts did melt" (2.11a). She then confesses, "the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (2.11b). This confession before these spies came as a result of her penitent heart. She feared God and what would come to be of the life of her



WHAT'S CATHOLICISM

BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL.

Produced by

H
+ ONLY
P
E
PUBLICATIONS

www.onlyhopepublications.com

COMING AUGUST, 2013

In the week of the release of this issue i will have the privilege of being with the North Macon Church of Christ in Macon, GA for their Gospel meeting. And, since I am speaking only one night of their meeting I'm able to spend a good amount of time on my lesson tweaking and studying to get it just the way I want. I like that because if you're like me you aren't that keen on having your topic picked by someone else for you to speak on. When I'm planning my lessons at Gray I get to title them and point the lesson in whatever way my mind, which apparently doesn't work like some other people, sees to take the lesson. But, while I was thinking about how it's a blessing to have plenty of time to prepare for the lesson on "Love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:25-37)." I thought about something, there are a lot of things in this life that just don't happen like this. I mean, I can probably sit down and think of a NUMBER of things in life that don't give you ample time to prepare. Now, I bet you have in your mind where this short editorial is going (i.e. preparing for the Judgment), but you're wrong!

If we are going to follow the command following the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are going to have to prepare to do just that. There is absolutely NO way that we will succeed in loving those around us as ourselves if we don't figure out a few things before embarking on the journey to fulfill Jesus' command.

RECOGNIZE WHO TO LOVE - While studying for my lesson on the parable of the Good Samaritan I came across a man by the name of Plato's statements about "neighbors." After all, if you're going to obey the command you're going to have to know the answer to the question the lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Plato said that a philosopher, one given strictly to philosophy doesn't even know if the person *living next door to him* is even a human being or if he's just an animal. Now, we understand that a human is defined as one with a soul and an animal doesn't

have a soul (1 Pet. 3:20). So, even though Plato's statement isn't true, his definition of a neighbor is spot on. When Jesus said that we are to love our "neighbor" He meant anyone that is near us. Yep, that even means the crazy lady that lives down the street or the man that stole your grill.

RECOGNIZE WHAT IS LOVE - Now, this one is something that is somewhat distorted in our culture. I love my truck, I love Chinese food, I love my wife and I love my Lord. So am I supposed to love my neighbor like I love my truck and if I'm not getting anything out of the relationship (like transportation) I can sell my neighbor for scrap metal?

Absolutely...NOT! The word for "love" is that word that most Christians, or those professing Christianity, have heard before - *agape*. It means a sacrificial yearning for the good of the object of that love. So, when our neighbor is in need we ought to pull a Barnabas and sell what we have to sell in order to help them (Acts 4)!

RECOGNIZE HOW TO LOVE - Selling possessions is just one possible way to love someone in need but it's not the only, or the best, way to do so. I'm of the opinion that the absolute BEST way to show your love for your neighbor is to help them prepare for the Judgment. There's a reason why Jesus came to earth, in love mind you (John 3:16), to save people from their sins. And there's a reason why He made the point to tell His disciples that they were to go and teach people how to get prepared (Mat. 28:19-20). If we're actually doing to love those around us we are going to have to sacrifice our time, our ego and maybe even some friendships to help them see that Jesus is the only way to be accepted into Heaven (John 14:6, 2 Cor. 5:9).

So next time the person behind you at a red light honks because you didn't move fast enough remember that he's the one you're supposed to be loving and teaching the truth. And when your family member invites you to dinner remember that he's another person that needs Jesus!



**Upcoming
Issues**

JUNE - Travis Byars
July - Andrew Lamica
August - Ben Giselsbach
September - Brandon Britton
October - Billy Hayes

Lee Snow is the preacher
for the Gray Church of
Christ in Gray, GA. He is
the Editor of the PFP.



family as well as her own. In fact, as soon as the words leave Rahab's lips she recognizes God's judgment will soon be upon Jericho. She pleads with the spies for the salvation of her family from death (2.12-13). The spies agree, but under the condition that Rahab does not alert anyone else of Israel's battle plans.

Rahab then lets them down over the city wall with a scarlet chord. The men tell her to leave that chord in the window during the battle to identify which house is to be left alone. As long as Rahab and her family stayed within that house during the battle they would be saved from death. If something tragic happened to them inside the home it would be on Israel's hands. That, of course, would not happen. On the other hand, if they stepped outside the home their salvation would be lost at their own cost (2.18-19). Ultimately, they now understood the path to salvation and the outcome was in their own hands.

What an incredible picture of the salvation we have in Jesus today. Just as Rahab's life changed when she heard of God and His plans for Israel, our lives should change when we hear of God, His son Jesus, and His plans for spiritual Israel today (Romans 9.6). Hearing, of course, is through the study of God's written word (Romans 10.17). Through it we gain an obedient faith like that of Rahab (Romans 1:5). That is, a faith that causes our hearts to melt because of the sin in our lives (2 Corinthians 7:10). A faith that produces a confession before men that Christ is the son of God, just as Rahab confessed that the spies' God was the true God (Matthew 10:32). Additionally, it is a faith that leads us to be buried into Jesus Christ's death through baptism (Romans 6:3-6). Just as Rahab feared the coming judgment of God, baptism is the result of our realization that God's judgment is coming and we must be saved from spiritual death. We do this in order to have our sins forgiven (Acts 22.16). Not, of course, due to the water, but the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1.5).

In addition, as we are saved from sin we are placed by Christ into His body, the church (Acts 2.47, cf. Colossians 1.18). This aspect of salvation is what especially jumps out in Joshua chapter two. Again, Rahab was told her family could not leave her home or they would perish with no one to blame but themselves. Similarly, we are placed in the one home of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4.4). We must continue to live our lives faithful to God's will (Revelation 1.10b). However, if we sin willfully we are choosing to step outside again into this cruel world separating

ourselves from God (Hebrews 10.26, cf. James 5.19-20). We too must understand God's judgment is coming as this "city" will be destroyed and only those in the one house marked by the scarlet blood of Christ will be saved. The question is, are you on the inside or outside of that house today?

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).



FREE BIBLE STUDY COURSE

ONLINE

CORRESPONDENCE

<http://www.theinternationalbiblecourse.com>



It is once again, my pleasure to answer a few questions asked by those as they study God's word. Please allow me a moment to thank the editor and submitters of the question for this grand opportunity. You help me as much, if not more, than I possibly help you. Let's get started...

1. “How does the Holy Spirit guide, guard and direct the Christian today?”

In 2013 America, as you and think of the word “spirit”, our minds are thrust to a picture of Casper the friendly ghost. We really ought to get past that idea. I think that this mental image trivializes the God of all gods. With that being said, the Holy Spirit of God is a part of the Godhead along with God the Father and God the Son. They cannot be separated nor should they be.

The Holy Spirit of God does guard, guide and direct the Christian, but **ONLY THROUGH THE BIBLE**. Notice the following verses: John 6.63, 2nd Peter 1.20-21, Hebrews 2.3-4, and 1st Corinthians 2.13. As we study the word of God, we find the Spirit of God to have knowledge (1st Corinthians 2.10-11), a will (1st Corinthians 2.11), a mind (Romans 8.27), the power to love (Romans 15.30), can be grieved(Ephesians 4.30), and He communicates (1st Timothy 4.1).

The Apostle John wrote the most of the Holy Spirit by the inspiration of God. John writes about the work of the Holy Spirit. He guides to all truth (16.13), guides the written word (20.30-31), glorifies Christ (17.5), comforts (16.7), teaches (14.26), convicts men of sin (16.8),reproves sin (16.7-8), testifies about Christ (15.26).

With the passing of the age of the miraculous, we never may fully appreciate how the Holy Spirit worked through Mankind. We are in a privileged situation, as we live with the fully revealed Word of God. It is through that Word, in which the Holy spirit guides, guards and directs the followers of God.

2. “Why is it said the Jesus preached to the spirits in prison after His death and how was this done?”

Wow! What a great question. Many will teach that Christ gave the previously dead a second chance. Is this true? Will I get a second chance? If I do not, then is God really fair?

Because God is fair, those souls did not get a second chance. Let's understand what is being said.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” (1Peter 3:18-20)

The preaching of the Good News of God was proclaimed by faithful preachers in history and that statement is true even today. Whether pre- Messianic or post- Messianic, the preacher is very similar. Imagine the prophet Ezekiel and a faithful gospel preacher today. Ezekiel taught about a Man he never saw or met. So does the preacher today. However, both groups believe Jesus is the Savior of the world.

When was the preaching of the gospel done for those lost in the flood? Noah did that preaching of the gospel. (verse 20) What did he preach? He preached that they were lost and in need of salvation. He preached to them about the goodness and severity of God- Romans 11.22

Therefore, the preaching attributed to Christ was actually performed by His agent Noah. This is also true today. The preaching of Christ is actually done by His agents today—faithful gospel preachers.

3. “Why are there verses missing from my Bible?” (I am using the NIV,NASB,ESV or other versions)

The answer comes down to one simple fact. The codices (or original texts) were missing those verses. While those things are not in the Bible you use, I would suggest that you refer to another older version of the Bible.

Another reason these verse may be missing is due to the editors or scholars that complied this version. I personally have a version that has study notes included at the bottom of each page to “help” me study the passage. These notes do not help but rather teach denominational doctrine. Please allow me to say: **BE VERY CAUTIOUS** any aides or new versions of the Bible as those things have not been time tested.

As you study keep an open mind, an open heart and an open Bible—“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” 1st Thessalonians 5.21

Thank you for all those great questions. I hope this has spurred a question in your mind. If it has, please send it in to the PFP (thepfp@live.com) and we will study your question soon.



**Soldier
to
Soldier**

Click Here

How to Preach At A Youth Event

By Chris Clevenger

Needless to say, I don't have all of the answers concerning how to adequately preach at a youth event. Personally, I'm thankful that the question isn't "How Should You" but "How I" preach at such an event. In preparation for our conversation this afternoon I've tried to look over several verses that I've found helpful in preparing my thoughts for speaking to youth. Addressing teens and youth is vastly different than addressing the church as a whole. Our teens view the world through different eyes and from a different point of reference than many of our older members. They encounter unique challenges and possess unique needs.

Yet, in many ways, what they need from a preacher is very similar to what each generation of God's people have needed. When Paul wrote to Titus he gave specific instructions regarding how to address young men. He wrote, *"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."* (Titus 2:6-8) When I'm preparing to speak to youth I try to keep some of these thoughts in mind.

BE AN ENCOURAGER - So much of what surrounds Christian youth today is characterized by negativity and cynicism. Paul told Titus to "exhort" the young men. To "exhort" means "to call to one's side" and carries the idea of encouragement. Specifically, this exhortation concerns sobriety and levelheadedness. Spiritual matters should be approached with seriousness. Encourage youth by your words and your actions to approach the Bible biblically. Don't underestimate their ability spiritually.

BE AN EXAMPLE - In every area of life a preacher is called to be an example of good works. This is especially vital when teaching young people. Teens and youth have a knack for discovering hypocrisy quickly. If someone stands to preach at a youth event their actions and words will be considered. In order for a man to be a good preacher, or youth speaker, he must first be a good man.

His life should embody the message he is to preach before it ever leaves his lips.

BE AN EXPOSITOR - While the first two considerations are largely completed before one ever enters the pulpit, the final step is performed at the youth event itself. Paul highlighted four things about preaching ("*doctrine*") to younger Christian. **First**, he wanted to ensure that Titus kept his message biblical ("*uncorruptness*"). Sometimes we short change our youth by seeking to entertain them instead of instructing them. Before you ever preach a sermon in front of youth, make sure that it is biblically based and biblically sound. **Second**, every sermon, including those presented at youth rallies, should be preached with dignity. The cross of Christ and the Word of God should be approached and exposed with a certain careful respect. Don't be frivolous with your use of Scripture or your choice of words. Don't give them gimmicks; give them the Gospel. **Third**, when you present your sermon, be genuine. Genuineness and sincerity is almost as valuable as any other aspect of your sermon. Let genuine zeal and passion be seen in your words. Ensure that you communicate the fact that you believe what you are preaching, but don't be something that you're not. Preaching is the Gospel communicated through personality. Be yourself. **Fourth**, Paul encourages Titus again to ensure that he uses "sound words." He begins with doctrinal soundness and concludes with the same; yet, there is a touch of tact in this final phrase. Construct your sermons so as to be Scripturally sound and constructed with carefully chosen words. If you do, those who stand in opposition will have little to say in response. Don't shortchange your youth. Give them the Bible.

From the choosing of a topic through the delivery of the sermon itself keep two things in mind: your God and your audience. Ask yourself these three questions: 1) What does this particular group of youth need spiritually? 2) What does the Bible reveal about this particular subject or topic? 3) How can I communicate this in an effective manner?

Chris Clevenger is one of the preachers for the Riggs Church of Christ and the co-Director of The Light Network.



Founding Faith

Soldier to Soldier



"IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL NATIONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROVIDENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD, TO OBEY HIS WILL, TO BE GRATEFUL FOR HIS BENEFITS, AND HUMBLY TO IMPORE HIS PROTECTION"

-GEORGE WASHINGTON 1ST U.S. PRESIDENT

"OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR A MORAL AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. IT IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OTHER."

-JOHN ADAMS 2ND U.S. PRESIDENT



"INDEED I TREMBLE FOR MY COUNTRY WHEN I REFLECT THAT GOD IS JUST, THAT HIS JUSTICE CANNOT SLEEP FOREVER."

-THOMAS JEFFERSON 3RD U.S. PRESIDENT

"CURSED BE ALL THAT LEARNING THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST."

-JAMES MADISON 4TH U.S. PRESIDENT



"THE BIBLE IS THE FACT ON WHICH OUR REPUBLIC RESTS."

-ANDREW JACKSON 7TH U.S. PRESIDENT

PSALMS 33:12

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS JEHOVAH...

SAY WHAT?

with Tony Clay

It seems that if you were to ask anyone whether or not they are going to Heaven, they would answer with an emphatic yes! In our day and age, everyone is a christian and all roads lead to heaven. It seems that the only prerequisite to gaining entrance into glorious Heaven is dying. For our time this month let us see if this position agrees with sacred, biblical text. Since the Bible is our only guide and source of Truth (cf 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Tim. 3:16-17; Psal. 119) it will decide this matter.

According to the Bible, will all people be saved; is pluralism correct? First off, what is pluralism? For those that remember elementary school, the word plural is familiar. School teachers and parents taught that plural simply means more than one, or a multiplicity of a thing makes it a plurality. So when this simple word is applied to religion, how is it to be understood? The doctrine of pluralism claims that there is more than one or a multiplicity of ways to Heaven. Secondly, now that the definition is understood, what is the relationship of this idea as it relates to Christianity?

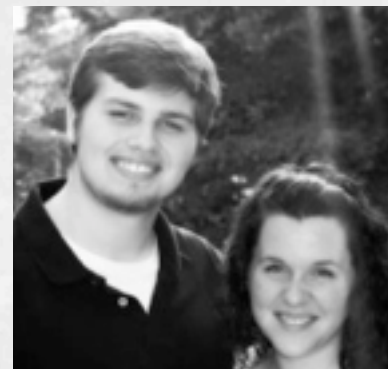
The Bible declares the singularity of hope in salvation. Despite not being the most popular position in society today, the Bible leaves no room for relativism or what some would call religious tolerance. Call it narrow-minded but of those who hold esteem for God's word and want to be pleasing to him, we call it biblical and right. Jesus put to rest any doubt or discussion on the matter when he declared with Godly authority, "I am THE Way, THE Truth and THE Light, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6; emp. TC). When Jesus said this, He removed the location for salvation in any other but Himself. It is because of the fact that Jesus is the only way for salvation that He can narrow it down even further.

Not only did Jesus declare that He is the location for salvation, but He supplied conditions and exclusion relative to salvation. Notice His words in Matthew 7:13-14: "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." To summarize Jesus words, most of the world is lost. How then can pluralism be correct if the vast majority of the world is lost, or is on the path that leadeth to destruction? It simply cannot be correct; or least it can't be right and Jesus also be right. One of the propositions is wrong. Jesus goes even further: He mentions that there are false teachers who are like wolves in sheeps clothing, to illustrate that not everything is as it seems, but we can know them by their fruits, the things that they do. Anyone can claim to be saved, but Jesus designates that salvation is found in something other than claims of goodness. "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." To do the will of the Father is the same as doing the will of Jesus; what does Jesus require? He requires that one believe in Him (John 8:24; John 14:1), that one obey Him in repentance (Acts 3:19; 17:30) and confession (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Tim 6:12) and baptism (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

What is the location of salvation? In Jesus. What are the conditions of salvation? Doing the will of the Father. What is the exclusion to salvation as a result? Those who are on the broad path which leadeth to destruction and do not do the will of the Father, will be lost. Despite what the world goes about saying, two ideas that oppose one another entirely cannot both be correct. The idea of pluralism which claims total relativism may appear to be harmless and accepting, but a doctrine like this is one that must be combated. Because if one can be saved without being washed in the blood of the Lamb, than Jesus died in vain. But truly, if Jesus died in vain, then we are lost and without hope. May we ever strive to be purveyors and soldiers of Truth, and Jesus Holy name. To God be the glory!

**Tony Clay is the preacher
for the Enon Church of
Christ in Webb, AL. He is
the Associate Editor of the
PFP.**





R16:16

I just read this great article!

Let me show you this new blog!

Where can I find it?

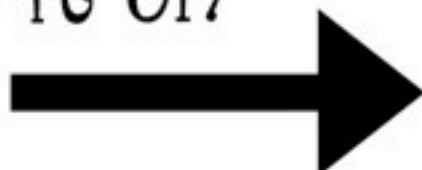


Visit

r16sixteen.wordpress.com

*A directory of blogs, business pages,
church sites, and facebook pages for
members of the Lord's church.*

pass it on



WORSHIP

with
Nathaniel Ferguson

Many professing Christians have a difficult time with distinguishing Man's Laws from God's Laws when it comes to matters of the Faith. Understanding Biblical truth verses the teachings of men becomes a crucial part of spiritual growth today. There are too many 'faiths' and not enough knowledge of *the* Faith among men. Therefore, in an effort to stop false doctrine we will have a series of articles that compare man's teaching to the Gospel. This particular article will compare singing acapella (which means to sing with ones voice) to playing instruments in a worship service. To do this, both positions will be discussed and their arguments or reasons given.

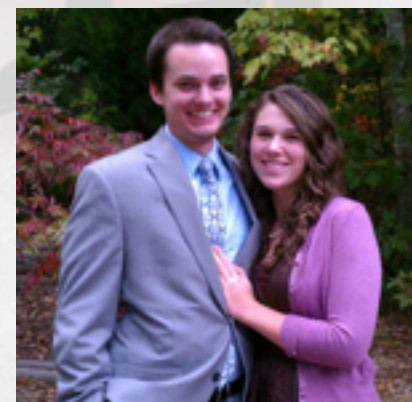
First, the position that allows playing instruments of music in worship will be discussed. The best argument men teach concerning the use of instruments is that the bible shows examples of people praising God with instruments. There are a number of passages that discuss praising God with instruments most of them come out of the Book of Psalms such as Psalm 33:2; 71:22; 8:1-3; 92:1-4; 98:5-6. Many passages concerning instruments are used to argue that God allows instruments to be played in the worship services of the Church. The next argument can be called, "the grey area theory". Stated plainly this position argues if the Bible does not explicitly command or condemn something then it is neither right nor wrong and men can do whatever their hearts lead them to do. So if a person feels compelled to play their guitar, banjo, drums, violin, or tuba in worship then they should do so because this is a grey area of scripture. These are the arguments of those who allow instruments of music in worship.

Now, the position of singing acapella in worship will be discussed. However, in order to understand this position the arguments of the previous position will need to be discussed and refuted if this argument will have any validity. Concerning the first argument that lists a number of passages that give examples of instruments being used in worship, there is an easy

answer. All of those scriptures were under the Law of Moses, the Old Testament, which men are not under today. Hebrews 7:12 states that when the priesthood changed from the Levitical priesthood to the priesthood of Christ there also needed to be a change in the law. It is the New Law, the Law of Christ, under which men are subject today. Therefore the commands of the Old Testament do not apply. The "grey area theory" also has an easy explanation through an example. If a man were to go to a restaurant and order from the menu a, #1 does that man need to tell the waiter or waitress that he does not want the #2, 3, 4, or 5? No, the man has told the waiter or waitress what he does want and it automatically excludes everything else. The same law applies to the bible for God has told men what He wants them to do in worship and therefore everything else is excluded. James gives the final argument when he defines for his readers that a psalm was to be sung and not played according to James 5:13. The psalm in this context is just a song of praise to God that was to be sung by Christians. If any example should be followed it should be that of the Christians in the 1st Century including the ones to whom James writes his epistle. There is no other argument needed once a New Testament Scripture gives the command. These are the reasons for singing only acapella in worship.

Therefore, when it comes to discovering which of these two positions is from God and which is from man the answer is simple. Man has invented the doctrine that allows instruments of music in worship and their arguments sound good but do not correspond with the Gospel. God has commanded Christians to sing songs of praise with their hearts and nothing else. Scriptures demonstrate it, history shows it, God commands it, so let men follow it!

Nathaniel Ferguson is one of the preachers for the Forest Park Church of Christ in Atlanta, GA.





**KEEP
CALM**

AND

REGISTER

www.thepfp.weebly.com