

July 5, 2020

Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

The Bible: Dare We Leave It?

By Dee Bowman

It is amazing how much of religion in general has left the Bible. Catholicism bears little resemblance to the Bible anymore, nor does Denominationalism. In fact, some of the congregations who wear the name “Church of Christ” are quickly abdicating biblical principles in preference for what the people want instead of what the Bible says.

Is it because the Bible is no longer relevant? Is it out-dated, no longer relevant? Have we reached a point in time where there is no longer a need for scriptural precedent for what we do. Have we become so “mature” that we no longer need the “thou-shalts” and the “thou-shalt-nots” so prominently displayed in the Bible? And is our “new hermeneutic” better than the original hermeneutic which called for direct command, approved apostolic example, or necessary inference?

Is it possible that we have reached the stage in modern religion where we have bought into the Old Roman philosophy that says *Vox Populi, Vox Dei*, “the voice of the people is the voice of God”?

It’s scary to note where we’re headed.

Why the Bible? Well, first of all, because it works. People have not changed. Technology has changed, Communication has changed, Medicine has changed, Transportation has changed, but man has not changed. Not one wit! He still has the same ole problem with sin — too much pride, too much lust, too much acquiescence to the moods and fancies of the day, too much “whatever” when it comes to defining morals. In the midst of it all, God’s word is “profitable for doctrine,” what we are to believe about who we are, where we came from and where we’re going, “for reproof,” to point out our imperfections, “for correction” to get us back on course again, and for “instruction in righteousness” so as to keep us going straight even in the midst of all sorts of pressures to get us off course. It is sufficient for all our needs; it thoroughly furnishes a man “to every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

But it only works if we use it. And to use it we must become familiar with its information, its warnings, its promises of peace and hope. And so we are admonished to “study to show thyself approved unto

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God.” There must be a conscious effort to make the word of God a consistent part of our lives; and that requires a diligent concern for all that it says — not just part of it — but all of it. And it won’t provide what God wanted when He gave it if it’s up on a shelf somewhere gathering dust, pressing funeral flowers, wedding invitations, and other such memorabilia. (2 Tim. 2:15)

The Bible identifies sin. It shows us the need for a Savior. It shows us the Savior. How dare we neglect it? (Jer. 10:23; Isa. 55:8-9)

“It is appointed to man once to die and after this the judgment.” “Let us hear the conclusion to the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.” The Bible sets forth the truth about man’s destiny. It answers the question “if a man die shall he live again?” It speaks to the condition of man at his death as being the most important consideration of his life. “Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess unto God.” How can we possibly neglect to consider — and that most carefully — these and many other references to man’s destiny? And how can we dare be so pompous as to change or alter what the Maker of the Universe says? (Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 12:13-14; Rom. 14:11)

Finally, the Bible brings heaven into focus. Hope comes alive for those who subscribe to the Bible. The

resurrection becomes a manner not of if, but when to the serious Bible student. (1 Cor. 15:55-f; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Thess. 1:7-12)

So, do you want to take a chance on changing what God has said? Not me, sir! (2 Jn. 9)

Ten Suggestions For A Good Family

By Dee Bowman

Few things rival the joy of having a good family. Having a good wife. Having a loving husband. Rearing faithful children. What a pleasure it is!

I was just thinking awhile back about what might be some things necessary for having a good family. Here are ten suggestions.

1. *Involve God in your marriage.* God ordained the husband and wife relationship. It was intend to be a joyous one, one with mutual love and devotion. Far too many marriages don’t involve God. It seems to me that husbands and wives are too busy with mundane things today. They don’t have any time to be together, much less be together with God. Husbands and wives don’t pray together, they don’t laugh together, they don’t have private talks about good stuff. If you haven’t involved God in your marriage, you’re missing one of the supreme joys of life. (Gen. 1:26-28)

2. *Involve God in rearing your children.* Children need to be taught early on that God is supreme in the home, that He will be considered first in all matters. When that is the case, there will be instructions about honesty, about being kind, about helping others, as well as a host of other things having to do with holiness and piety. Children get close to God when they see that their parents are close to God. When they see no godliness, they are not likely to have much themselves. (Eph. 6:4)

3. *Keep good communication.* Most of the problems in marriages are in some way connected to poor communication. Husbands don't keep wives informed or wives don't let the husbands know what they're doing and why, and that causes problems. Misunderstandings are nearly always caused by a failure to communicate. Marriages need closeness, communications brings it about. Stay in touch with your spouse. Keep an open line with your children. (Pro. 1:7-9)

4. *Do things together.* It bothers me that I see homes so fragmented in today's society. The wife works, and keeps the house, the husband works, but plays golf when he is off. There's no time for family-togetherness. The children are often so involved in some kind of outside activity that they have little time for family affairs. Nobody has time to sit and just enjoy pleasant family conversation. Being together makes happy homes. After all, you can't really get to know one another when you spend no time together. (Eccl. 9:9)

5. *Eat together.* I made this a section by itself because it deserves special consideration. Families need to plan a time for at least one meal together each day. Meals shared promote good humor, good conversation, an opportunity to speak of moral and spiritual needs. Eating together is one of the purest forms of fellowship, and one of the best promoters of family happiness. (Eccl. 3:12-13)

6. *Encourage one another.* There is great benefit in encouraging one another, no matter the project or endeavor. For instance, a youngster who is naturally rather timid, can be brought out of that timidity — at least somewhat — by a little encouragement. A child who is a bit too extroverted can be helped to control that tendency by some well-placed encouragement. And teaching children to encourage one another, to encourage their parents, cements a marriage and makes it strong. (Gal. 6:1-4)

7. *Make family worship part of your schedule.* We schedule everything else. Why can't we just put down a time and say, "this is for family worship"? Children get a good start with such activities, teenagers keep spiritual focus from such, and the parents get closer to God when there is a time set aside for spiritual matters. Hold hands when you pray. Hold hands when you sing together. (Matt. 5:1-12)

8. *Learn the joy of saying, "I love you."* It makes marriages happier. It makes kids feel important.

It makes for a better home on every front. It brings the family together. It makes hard times easier to bear. It's just God's way of having a good home. A home with lots of love in it is a happy home. (1 Cor. 13)

9. Find good family friends. As a general rule, people tend to find those who share their convictions and aspirations. Good family friends adorn homes. They bring special admirations, feelings of mutual trust, and extra-family kindness to the home and family. Being together with family friends broadens love and makes the family feel blessed. (1 Cor. 12:12-20)

10. Take out the trash. Every family has stuff that doesn't belong. These things have to be handled. And if they are not handled properly the trash builds up and eventually causes a big stink. Even little pieces of rubbish has to be taken out early or there is problem later when it becomes part of a whole lot of junk that builds up. Fathers should take control to see that evil talk, gossip of various sorts, and other wish-wash don't get a foothold or become common in the family. Mothers should discourage any kind of dirty language, no matter if it's acceptable in other places. Trash does not fit a good family. (James 3:6-12)

I hope that helps a little.

July Birthdays:

The 9th Ruth Davis; The 10th John Randolph; The 29th Opal Yarbrough

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Sunday
Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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