

October 11, 2020

Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

Do We Really Believe?

By Bill Crews

1. That there is a God, everlasting, possessing all power and all wisdom? *Rom. 1:20; Job 42:2; Rom. 11:33-36*

2. That He made the universe, the earth, man, and all other material things? *Acts 17:24-25; Gen. 1-2*

3. That Jesus of Nazareth is His only begotten Son, divine and human, who gave Himself in sacrifice for our sins? *Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:3-4*

4. That the gospel revealed through the apostles and prophets is God's power to save our souls and must be accepted and obeyed? *Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:8*

5. That the kingdom of God, the church of our Lord, cost the blood of Jesus Christ, and that men and women must enter therein and serve God therein to be saved? *Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 5:23-25*

6. That life, at the most, is brief and will soon be gone, and that after death men must face the resurrection, the judgment and eternity? James 4:14; *Heb. 9:27; Jn. 5:28-29*

7. That those who die in their sins, whether out of Christ or unfaithful to Christ, will dwell forever in hell? *Jn. 8:21, 24; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Matt. 18:8-9; Phil. 3:18-19*

8. That those who die in innocence (not accountable) and those who die in Christ or faithful to Christ, will dwell forever in heaven? *Lk. 18:15-17; Rev. 14:13; Matt. 25:31-46*

9. That our primary purpose for existing is to "fear God and keep His commandments" (*Eccl. 12:13*), to "glorify God in our bodies" (*1 Cor. 6:20*), to use our time, possessions and abilities as God wants us to?

All of those Bible references are not just tacked on for appearance; each passage has something to do with the point made and each is filled with something God wants us to know. For your Bible study today, why not look each one up in your Bible and read it.

Study Your Bible

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

Commitment

By Wayne Goff

What the local church needs more of today is commitment from all of its members.

Commitment is the thing on which relationships in life are built. Without commitment in marriage, husbands and wives cannot have a secure relationship. Without commitment at work, the employer would never be sure of his work force; the employee would never be sure of his job. Without commitment, schools would have no boards, no principals, no teachers, and no students. Without commitment, the church would flounder — never sure of its ability, never sure of its power for good, never certain if it can finish the task to which it has set itself.

A Committed Church

How can we have a committed church? By teaching every member to be committed to the Lord and to the local church. “And this they did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God” (2 Corinthians 8:5). With these words, the Lord was teaching the saints at Corinth about commitment. The Macedonians were committed Christians; the Corinthians could be committed too.

But committed to do what? “But as you abound in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us — see that you abound in this grace

also.” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In short, the church needs its members to be committed to any and every Scriptural endeavor. If the church conducts a gospel meeting, then every member should commit himself or herself to attend, to invite others, and to pray for its success. If the church is teaching its members how to do personal work, then every member should commit to learning how to do it. Commitment comes in every aspect of the church — Scriptural worship (John 4:24), Scriptural work (Ephesians 4:16), and Scriptural organization (Philippians 1:1).

What if everyone is not committed? ***What if everyone is not committed?***

“For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack — that there may be equality. As it is written, ‘He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack’” (2 Corinthians 8:13-15). The God-ordained plan is that every member should be committed to do his or her work. Consequently, no one is over burdened, and none are without work. Those who are stronger should teach the weaker what is their responsibility and how they can discharge it.

Are you a committed Christian? Do you accept personal responsibility for yourself? Do you look for opportunities to serve the Lord and your brethren?

Would People Notice?

By John Hines

One hates to say it, but a lot of people are dead long before the undertaker is ever called, even within the church. Do you remember the condemnation of the brethren in Sardis? “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead” (Rev. 3:1). Not all of them were. Some were ready to die (v. 2). Some were faithful (3:4), but only a few. Of those who were dead, or dying, did they realize it? No, but the Lord did. He renders unto each according to their works, and the majority of folks in Sardis were as dead as a doornail.

It was that way in Corinth too. In speaking to them about what should really be happening as they partook of the Lord’s Supper, Paul tells them, “For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor. 11:30). The sleep is equivalent to Sardis’ death, and notice it was many who were sick and many who slept. There were some there who were undefiled, but it sure wasn’t many.

When brethren are like that, their death, their physical death, is usually met with a silent sigh of relief, if it is noticed at all. When we are just taking up a spot on a pew and we never truly worship the Lord or serve one another, it should not surprise us when we are not missed when we are gone. We’ve been gone spiritually for a long time. Now we’re just gone physically too. Listen to what Paul tells the Philippians. “If there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy...” (2:1). Paul is looking for a spark, an ember that may ignite their souls. In many, there is none. There is no life left.

What should we do? Examine ourselves, judge ourselves, and repent. Only when we truly do that will zeal reignite (2 Cor. 7:10-11). Only then will anyone notice a difference. Those who are dead? They do not hear the Lord calling them to repent anyway. What do you hear? Anything? Will life be any different in the Lord’s body when you pass? If not, there’s a problem.

So Many Things — So Little Time

By Bill Crews

When one ponders the intricacies, complexities, beauties, order, design, balance and interdependence of things upon this earth, let alone those observed in the vast cosmos that surrounds us, how can he not believe that they

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are all a creation by a great Creator? There are here upon the earth such an array of sights, sounds, smells, colors, textures and tastes that we will never be able to have encounters with all of them. There are so many things to learn, to know, to do, to experience, to accomplish, to be; yet, so little time.

With a deep reverence for God, and an abiding respect for His revealed Word, a profound sense of the purpose for which He made us, an awareness of the brevity and uncertainty of life, and an acknowledgment of the coming resurrection, judgment and eternity, let us be wise, selective and particular. Let us get our priorities straight, seeking first God's kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33), setting our minds more upon the things that are above than upon the things that are on this earth (Colossians 3:1-2), looking more at the things which are not seen (the soul, God, heaven) than at the things which are seen (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

If we must forego many things, if we must miss many things, let it be the things that are temporal and not the things that are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18). Put into your life things which will outlast it, that will benefit others, that will glorify God.

October Birthdays:

The 20th Joan Blue; The 23rd Doug Threadgill; The 24th Diana Hinds

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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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