

Tidings From Timothy

WE continue to see spiritual progress here at Mt. Gilead. I appreciate all your comments on my last Sunday morning sermon. After the sermon, I talked with **Jan Bartley**, who expressed dissatisfaction with her earlier life and baptism. Therefore, we made her “calling and election sure” and she obeyed the gospel and rededicated herself to Christ. I had a similar issue in my life several years back, and I know that she chose the right course by putting all her trust in God, who saves all those who humbly come to Him. We continue to have souls come to Christ, become Christian, or get their souls back right with God at Mt. Gilead.

Along those lines, this morning’s sermon is on the subject of transition from **the lost state to the saved state**. I hope you will find it interesting.

In Need of Prayer: Marris Jackson was recently in the hospital with a blood clot. **Otha Grider** is in the local hospital in very poor condition. **Shirley Curtis** has been resting at home after her recent health problems. Ervin Tooley’s wife is in the local hospital in poor health.

Pantry: Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam...

HOW CAN I TELL IF HE’S “PREACHING THE TRUTH?”

Many people are asking, “How can I tell when a preacher is preaching the truth?” This is a brief effort to give a definite answer to this extremely important question.

Of course, there are those who think that “truth” is only relative and ethereal (celestial, heavenly, gmr) and who, consequently, deny that anything can be “the truth.” Then there are those who think that it is all just a matter of interpretation, so that one man’s idea is just as good as another’s. And, there are not a few who think, naively, that all preachers are preaching the truth.

But this article is for those who believe, rightly, that the Bible is the word of God and, therefore, “the truth;” who understand that interpretations of any Bible Scripture are either right or wrong; who have listened closely enough to know that many contradictory teachings are found among the various preachers and cannot all be right; and who sincerely want to know how they can tell when a preacher is preaching the truth.

Unfortunately, many conclude that a preacher is preaching the truth for such reasons as the following:

1. He looks like an honest man, one you can trust.
2. He sounds so sincere and earnest.
3. He sounds like he knows what he is talking about.
4. He speaks so forcefully and convincingly.
5. He is such a personable and such a likeable man.
6. He is so good and kind.
7. He insists that he is preaching only the truth and uses a lot of Scripture.
8. He declares with so much conviction that he has received his message from God by the Holy Spirit.

Some will find it hard to believe, but a man may possess every one of these “qualifications” and still not be preaching the truth. In fact, in view of (1) the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures that God has given us (II Timothy 3:14-17), (2) the finality of “the faith” that was “once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3), and (3) the cessation of the miraculous process of divine revelation upon the completion of that revelation (1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13), it is certain that any preacher today who claims to receive his message, not through his own study of the Scriptures, but through direct revelation or through some miraculous guidance from the Holy Spirit IS NOT, for that reason, preaching the truth.

How, then, can you tell when a preacher is preaching the truth? Here are some guidelines from God’s own book:

1. When he speaks as the oracles of God (I Peter 4:11).
2. When he does not go beyond what is written (I Corinthians 4:6).
3. When he speaks the things that befit sound doctrine (Titus 2:1).
4. When his preaching stands the test of examination in the light of Scripture (Acts 17:11).
5. When he does not preach another gospel (other than that preached by the inspired writers of the New Testament) (Galatians 1:6-9).
6. When he does not teach a different doctrine from that taught by the apostles (I Timothy 1:3-4; 6:3ff).
7. When he does not go beyond, but abides within the doctrine of Christ (II John 9) (cont. on page 4)

When he goes "to the law and the testimony" (Isaiah 8:20), or to the Scriptures to establish all that he teaches. --Bill Crews, edited

What must I do?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

Judy	Wiley	08/17
Chandra	Copas	08/18
Charolette	Arnett	08/19
Stephanie	Hagan	08/20

Birthdays:

Drexel	Holloway	08/12
Lavonne	Welch	08/13
Johnny Paul	Nixon	08/15
Doyle	Adams	08/16
John	Lyons Sr.	08/17

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Verses for the Lord's Supper: Ephesians 1:3

- 7 ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace

Elders:

- Keith Dyer.....427-4105
- Veachel Harlan.....487-5727
- Roger Deckard.....487-8544

Steve Carter.....487-8746

Deacons: Larry Copas, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Kevin Deckard, Jimmy High, Ray C. Lyon, Michael McPherson, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494
12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN

38575

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

- 9:30am Bible Study...
- 10:05am Morning Worship...
- 6pm Evening Worship...

Wednesday:

- 7pm Bible Study...

Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news.