

### Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April has been experiencing health problems
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Save the Date: Bobby Graham will be holding a Gospel Meeting for us September 17-22, 2017.

For prayer requests, call or text Chad @ (208) 221-2587

### Assignments

#### Today

**Bible Study** – Tom Mitchell  
**Song Leader** – Chad Mitchell  
**Lord's Table** – Ross Ward  
**Sermon** – Ross Ward

#### Wednesday

**Bible Study** – Ross Ward  
**Song Leader** – Tom Mitchell  
**Invitation** – Ross Ward

#### Next Sunday

**Bible Study** – Tom Mitchell  
**Song Leader** – Dave Porter  
**Lord's Table** – Chad Mitchell  
**Sermon** – Ross Ward

#### Next Wednesday

**Bible Study** – Ross Ward  
**Song Leader** – Dave Porter  
**Invitation** – Ross Ward

Blackfoot church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot Idaho, 83221

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## MAN'S PROBLEM HAS NEVER BEEN....

By William C. "Bill" Sexton

Man's problem, it seems clear, has never been that he could not know or understand God's will. Rather, it has always been that he was deceived (either by himself or another) into thinking that God didn't state it fully, correctly, accurately! Let us look at a few cases.

First that of Eve, was not that she didn't understand what God said. "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." (Gen. 3:1-3).

See, she knew what He said and understood it, so as to quote it accurately to the serpent. Wherein was the deception, then? It was that she was persuaded by the serpent that God's word was not really true. Notice what he said "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Gen. 3:4-6).

Look at the temptation of Jesus, (Matt. 4:1-11). How was Jesus successful in resisting the devil: He said "it is written." Beloved, knowing what the Lord said, as did Jesus, is essential. However, like Jesus, one must. BELIEVE IT AND ACT UPON IT! Beloved, you can know what God's instructions are. Also, you are capable of doing His will.



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Don't be deceived by self or another that you can't know what God wants done or that it is so difficult that you can't do it. You can know and you can do! Hear James in chapter 1:21-25:

You need to put away anything and every thing that will keep you from receiving the precious word which is able to save your soul. Then immediately we are told not to deceive ourselves by being hearers only. The illustration is clear that if we hear and go on without applying, following, it's like looking in the mirror and seeing what needs to be done, but going onward and forgetting. It does no good. Then, we are told emphatically who is blessed: the one who looks into the perfect law of Liberty and does the work that is the person who will be benefited! Also, remember that it is for your good to obey; and destructive to THINK something else is better, that you can be benefited by.

## **Apathy and Ignorance: Problems!**

**By William C. "Bill" Sexton**

Several years ago, brother Jady Copland, at the Nashua congregation in Kansas City, gave an illustration of two men talking. One said I believe that the two worse problems in the church are Apathy and Ignorance. What do you think? The second said, "I don't know and I don't care."

That's about the way it is with some relative to spiritual problems. They don't have the faintest idea of what the truth is on the subject. Neither do they have one bit of interest in the matter so as to find the truth by searching the scriptures.(Cf. Jn.5:39)

Such an attitude and disposition comes when one has made up his/her mind that it doesn't really matter. What a sad state to be in. Let such a person get in what they perceive to be a life and death situation, however, and they'll cry loud and long for HELP! Perception is critical!

Of course we can't make people be interested. We can only point to the truth as it is revealed in God's revelation, The Bible. We can tell one, if he/she will listen, that God's love for them and all others was demonstrated in the most powerful way possible in giving His Son to die for our sins. That shows that sin is a serious matter, a life and death situation if you please, in spiritual and eternal terms. Yet if they allow Satan to "blind" their minds then we can only pray that before it's too late they'll have a change of heart. Listen to the voice of inspiration:

II Cor. 4:3-4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

We can stand by, when a loved one so acts, hoping that before death comes that he/she will be open to the truth and then we'll gladly have it ready to hold forth to them, as Paul told the Philippians:

Phil. 2:14-16 "Do all things without murmuring and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

All of us have loved ones whose minds are blind to the truth and feel aggravated and irritated when we mention their need to obey the truth. They feel that they are alright, and that we are narrow minded and self-righteous when we say that only those who obey the truth shall be saved. Many of them feel that they are "Christians" as well as we are. Yet, they will not even consider the fact that Jesus was crucified for the very fact that He was telling religious people that they were lost! Notice how narrow Jesus was:

John 6:44-45 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Notice how irritated and argumentative religious people became when He pointed to their need to be saved:

John 8:31-33 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

Beloved, let us be moved by love to approach people with the gospel message, but at the same time let us NOT be apathetic relative to the seriousness of eternal salvation. The alternative is eternal punishment, being in a place where the pain will not cease. If one believes that, he/she cannot be apathetic. Only ignorance will allow that! Let us not be such.