

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Today is the end of the meeting with Rody Gumpad, from the Philippines, Rody and Tessie will be flying from Idaho Falls tomorrow and continue their travels in the states.
- Chad had outpatient surgery this Friday and is doing well.
- Empey's will be traveling to Boise Wednesday. While there, April will be seeing her Doctors. They plan to return the next Wednesday.
- Tom & Kate will be leaving Tuesday for Nevada visiting family
- We are glad MJ chose to worship and study with us. Pray for him as he makes plans to start a career most likely in a different area of the US.
- Hayes family in the loss of their Daughter-in-law
- Keep April in our prayers.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class at Chad & Kass' will be postponed this week and will resume next week.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<p><u>Today</u> Bible Study – Rody Gumpad Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Rody Gumpad</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p><u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>

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



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Going Beyond Scripture

By Don Moyer

"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" (1 Cor 4:6-7)

It's always tempting to think that our ideas are better than what Scripture reveals. This passage reminded the Corinthians that when they boasted, were puffed up against the apostles, or listened to those other than Christ and the apostles and prophets as their authority, they were being arrogant and acting as though what they had was of their own doing.

Why would we boast about something that we have received? If we do, are we not being arrogant and acting superior to others? Then, when we are using something other than what is written as our authority, is that also not a form of arrogance?

Yet isn't this what is happening when we get away from Scripture? Traditions are not bad in themselves, and biblical tradition is necessary (2 Thess 2:15), but when we think that extra-biblical tradition is on par with, or even above, Scripture, then we have become arrogant (cf. Mark 7:9).

There are religious groups that hold their traditions as being just as valuable as the written text. They believe that the councils of the past, the experiences of the "fathers," and the wisdom of the present is as authoritative as the Scriptures. They don't even deny that their practices cannot be found in Scripture. They rather affirm that the practices are authorized on the basis of some form of apostolic succession. Authority has been passed down, and they are beneficiaries.

Yet where does that stop? Once we get away from the text of Scripture as being the standard, there is no true stopping point, for the wisdom of men will take over.

The next group of wise men and leaders from their tradition can make changes, claim authority, and people are just supposed to follow. How does that differ substantively from what the Pharisees were doing?

Today's wisdom, even among many who claim to be following the Bible only, is that we may still adjust our doctrine and practice to match the prevailing attitudes of the day. Need we bring up "gay marriage" as an example? A few references to "love" in the Bible, and suddenly just about anything goes as long as we can attach our version of "love" to it. Practices that are clearly spelled out as works of the flesh, keeping people from inheriting the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10), are quickly anointed as being holy on the basis that love covers it all. Forget the text. Just go with our interpretations of love.

The issue here is not whether everything must be specified to be authorized. I really don't know anyone who thinks that. The issue is whether we can legitimately establish, from Scripture, our practices and beliefs. If we can't, and we do it anyway, are we not being arrogant?

What have we received? Paul answers: "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe" (1 Thess 2:13).

Isaiah reminded the people of his day that there is a stark difference between what God thinks and what people think, between what God intends for His word to accomplish, and what we think might work better. This reminder is just as significant now, for we are constantly in a battle for a standard. The question is whether or not we will trust God's word, or whether we think it necessary at some point to go beyond Scripture in order to establish practices that are nowhere near what Scripture teaches.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. (Isa 55:8-11)

ABANDON YOUTH MINISTRIES

By Frank Himmel

The Christian Chronicle carried an interview with LeGard Smith, who was at the time "Scholar in Residence for Christian Studies" at David Lipscomb University in Nashville. One item caught my attention. Smith was asked what he would say if he had the undivided attention of every member of churches of Christ for 10 minutes. Included in his answer: ". . . I would call on the church to abandon youth ministries, which have toppled the spiritual hierarchy. Throughout Scripture, spiritual leadership is not only male, but it's elder. It's the wisdom of the years that leads and nurtures younger generations."

Abandon youth ministries. This is not the cry of some old fogey ultra-conservative who resists change at every turn. It is the counsel of one who is seeing among his peers the ripe fruit of an ill-advised tree. Youth ministries typically feature two things: abundant recreational activities and shallow, entertaining instruction. What happens when teens who are accustomed to such things become adults? Will they immediately consider themselves too old for church-sponsored recreation, or suddenly insist on more sober worship and meatier preaching? Of course not. As a result, today's "adult church" has in many cases become just a slightly toned-down version of yesterday's "youth church." The Bible, of course, knows nothing of youth ministries, youth church, or church-sponsored recreation for any age. And it emphatically warns against ear-tickling preaching (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

This warning is timely. In recent years, increasing numbers of congregations which have stood opposed to institutionalism and church sponsored recreation (things readily accepted by Smith's associates) are beginning to dabble in youth ministries. We don't call them that, of course, but the trend is cause for concern. Special meetings for young people call for certain speakers, those whose presentations are more entertaining. The truth is slightly repackaged - less Bible reading and exposition, more stories and humor, and lessons that are mostly application with content limited to "relevant" (daily living) themes. Parents provide ample food and entertainment. Do not misunderstand. No one opposes occasional sermons targeted at a particular segment of the audience, nor do we underestimate the value of young Christians getting together. However, when meetings for young people consistently take on a more entertaining air, when the add-on recreation becomes expected, when we advertise it along with the worship (even though it is not paid for from the church's treasury), and when brethren begin to say that we may lose our young people without such events, we have gone farther than we think down the wrong path.