



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 2

January 13, 2019

The Avenue of FAITH?

William "Bill" Sexton

In a Billy Graham column, some years ago, a person wrote they didn't believe in God, saying: "If God were real then he would answer my prayers, and I would be over all my problems. I don't see how anyone can believe in God when it is obvious we are on our own in life."

Billy wrote that he hoped that the man would not give up on God because God does love all and has not given up on him. He went on to quote Heb.11: 6 that one who comes to God must "believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Then Mr. Graham advised the person: "Begin by asking God for faith, because true faith is a gift from God." I have to disagree on this point, and challenge us to reflect for a bit in this regard.

1. Now if faith is a gift from God, and if God is impartial, (as the Bible claims He really is Acts 10:34-35), then why hasn't He given every person "Faith"?
2. If faith is a gift and I can't do anything to earn a gift, then what can I do but wait and hope that something will happen that I'll get the gift?
3. If faith is a gift from God and man has to have faith to come to Him in order to be saved, then whose fault is it if one is lost?

The fact is, as I understand and can prove by inspiration, faith is possible for any person who will look honestly and deal energetically with the

evidences available to him/her. Just as Heb 11:6 tells us that one must "believe" in God in order to come to Him, that same source says: "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom 10:17). This is a point of which all should be aware there is ample evidence in nature to provide one with testimony that God is ever present in the creation (Rom 1:21). The heavens declare His glory, manifesting his "handy work" (Ps 19:1-6). One is foolish (Ps 14:1) to either ignore or deny the demonstration of God's presence in the universe. As has been said, however, "No one is so blind as he who will not see."

Effort, however, is necessary - just as it is in learning of any important subject. If one will go back as far as he/she wished, nothing more simply yet clearly explains what we see today than: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen 1:1).

If one reads of His dealings with people, one can see that man has always been somewhat rebellious, to his own injury. When one examines and accepts God's instructions, by obeying he/she is blessed greatly. When one dismisses such carelessly, pain and shame is experienced as well as being lost eternally. The evidence is adequate. Many things Jesus did are written that we may believe "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing" we may "have life though his name" (Jn 20:30-31). Beloved, the evidence is available and adequate. Man must examine that evidence, however, and commit him/herself to it. That's how faith comes, not miraculously.

When life comes to an end and one is required to stand before God, no one will be able to say I could not have known what was right or wrong. Many will be saying that who were religious, had been very busy, doing things and claiming that they were in the "name" of Jesus (Mt 7:21ff), only to find they are rejected, having been deceived and thus wasted their time and energy -- lost eternally. -

Beloved, when one will look around in the universe, there is evidence that intelligence were involved in the production and maintaining the universe. Then the word of God is preserved in the Bible for mankind to

study and find how He every lives and provided THE WAY for each to be cleansed from his/her sins, serve Him faithfully, and be prepared for eternity, and life in HOPE!

If one chooses to be ignorant, and deny God's existence, that is his/her freedom to do so today. However, the time is coming when the truth will prevail! Believe in Jesus, Repent of sins, Confess Him and be baptized!

Clergy and Laity

By Joe Price

Mt 23:6-11, They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues,⁷ greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'⁸ But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. NKJV

This passage from Christ's lips should forever eliminate the clergy-laity distinction. And yet, such hierarchies thrive in many of the churches and denominations of men. Yes, the Scriptures identify different functions of work in the church (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, Ephesians 4:11-12), but these are works of service, not positions of ordination given by the church. An ordained clergy establishes a pecking order of preeminence among Christians that does not exist in the New Testament. We are taught to submit to one another in the fear of God, not elevate a clergy to direct the people in the pews (Ephesians 5:21). The Lord washed feet, but now, people kiss a man's feet as if he were God (John 13:12-17; Acts 10:25-26)! Pride feeds the desire for power and to be recognized above others. The clergy-laity distinction, that wraps people in garbs of religious hierarchy, separating and elevating one above another, is not from God (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda is recovering from surgery on her ankle
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- Brenda's Cousin Stacey Whittington is diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and will be undergoing treatments
- Laura Matlock will undergo surgery for cancer this month
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism

For prayer requests, call or text

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

Assignments

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



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