

November, 2007

Pause Ponder Profit

Preaching "Another Jesus"

by Lowell Blasingame

"Would to God ye would bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Christ, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which you have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." (2 Cor. 11:1-4).

Paul had just cause for being concerned about the Corinthian church. It was he who first came to Corinth with the gospel (Acts 18). While he may have baptized only a few of them (1 Cor. 1:14-16) many of them had been baptized under his powerful preaching (Acts 18:8). Now he expresses concern for them and asks that they bear with him in a little folly. He had espoused them as a pure virgin to Christ but now he has fears that as Satan beguiled Eve, "so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Judaizers had entered Corinth and had raised questions about the validity of Paul's apostleship and what he had taught them and it seems that several of the Corinthians were being influenced by these. This is the reason for his expressing his fear that they were being deceived as was Eve. Paul said that these men came preaching "another Christ" and "you put up with it readily enough" (2 Cor. 11:4 ESV). We raise the question. What does it mean to preach "another Jesus?"

The question is probably easiest answered by first pointing out what it means to preach Jesus. Paul had expressed his determination "not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" and that he had preached "Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness," (1 Cor. 2:2; 1:23). In preaching Christ to them he proclaimed the gospel and twice says it was what was according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4). When the Lord's disciples fled Jerusalem because of persecution, they went "everywhere preaching the word" and Philip, one of them, went to Samaria and "preached Christ unto them," and when the Samaritans believed Philip's preaching "the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus, they were baptized, both men and women," (Ac. 8:4-5, 12). Philip joined the eunuch, who was reading from Isaiah, "opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." I think that the conclusion is obvious. To preach Jesus, or Christ one must preach the word, or what He taught as written in the Scriptures. Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch and when they came to water, he asked what hindered his being baptized. Question — what did the eunuch know about baptism? The

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answer has to be that Philip in teaching him Jesus taught him what Jesus said about baptism (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16). This is the only way that he could have known of its importance **and it reinforces our conclusion that in order for one to preach Jesus, he must preach what Jesus said as written in the Scriptures.**

The Scriptures say that there is one baptism (Eph. 4:5), that it is a burial (Rom. 6:3-4; Col 2:12) it is "for remission of sins" (Acts 2:38) or to be saved (Mk. 16:16) and that the proper subject for baptism is a believer (Mk. 16:16) who repents (Acts 2:38) and confesses that Jesus is Christ (Acts 8:36-38). If I teach you that there is more than one baptism, that both Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism may now be received or if I tell you that there is some kind of mysterious spiritual baptism that ushers one into Christ and that it is to be followed by water baptism that admits you into a denomination, I'm preaching "another Jesus." I am not teaching you what is "**written in the Scriptures.**" Or, if I preach to you that infants, who have no sins of which to repent and who cannot confess faith in Christ and tell you that you are saved by faith only and need to be baptized as a sign of your salvation, **I am not preaching what is written in the Scriptures and that's how one preaches "another Christ."**

When Paul preached Christ crucified to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:23), he declared unto them "the gospel" or what was "according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:1-3). According to the Scriptures Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18). That He did this is indicated by His adding the saved to it (Ac 2:47). The Scriptures identify it as His spiritual body (Eph. 1:22-23) and say that He is its head and that He has one body (Eph. 4:4). He is its Saviour (Eph 5:23) and in it He reconciles us to God (Eph 2:16). When I preach these things, I'm telling you what is *according to the Scriptures and have documented*

such with book, chapter and verse to show it to be so. Why take the time to do this? Because many are preaching "another Jesus" or what is not "according to the Scriptures." Does my telling you that there are many different kinds of churches, that one is as good as another, that each has the right to the church of his choice and that the church isn't a factor in salvation have a familiar ring to you? Sure it does because its what we are commonly taught in religion today, but friend, **it isn't "according to the Scripture" and what will you do in the day of judgment when you have followed "another Jesus" than the one before whom we must all appear for judgment?** He is going to judge us "according to the Scripture" (Jn. 12:48), not by what our parents and preachers said or what the majority thought.

When asked if it were lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause, Jesus replied that in the beginning Jesus made male and female and when united in marriage, they became one flesh "*what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" They asked why Moses granted giving a bill of divorcement and putting a wife away and He replied that such was done because of their hardness of heart but "*from the beginning it was not so.*" He, then, added if one put away his or her marriage partner for any reason other than fornication and married another he or she committed adultery (Matt. 19:1-9). Those who teach that marriage is just an evolved social custom or only a civil union, or that persons of the same sex may form a marriage, or that a marriage may be dissolved for any reason and another formed are preaching "another Jesus" or not teaching what is "according to the Scriptures."

Paul warned that those preaching another Jesus were false teachers following Satan and that their end "*shall be according to their works.*" (2 Cor. 11:13-15). We urge you not to follow them.

Saving Faith Is An Obedient Faith

by James A. Brown

The proposition, "saving faith is an obedient faith," is easy to prove from the New Testament scriptures.

John 3:36 from the NKJV reads, "He who **believes** in the Son has everlasting life; and he who **does not believe** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." The Greek word (apeithéō) translated "does not believe" in this verse means:

"to disobey, be disobedient" —Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words;

"to be disobedient" —Theological Dictionary of the New Testament - Abridged Edition;

"to be disobedient, refuse compliance, to disobey"—Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon.

The reading from other versions of the New Testament give the proper translation.

John 3:36 (ASV) 36 He that **believeth** on the Son hath eternal life; but he that **obeyeth not** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36 (ESV) 36 Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life; whoever **does not obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 3:36 (NASB95) 36 "He who **believes** in the Son has eternal life; but he who **does not obey** the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

In our passage under consideration, without doubt, we can see that the one who "believes" is put in contrast to one who "does not obey". The "belief" and "disobedience" expressed in the passage are antonyms. That being so, belief and obedience are synonymous. To say, "he who believes in the Son has everlasting life" is equal to saying, "he who obeys the Son shall see life". Now, if saving faith is not an obedience faith then how on earth can these antonyms in this passage be explained?

If this has not convinced you of the truth of the proposition then look at another passage were "belief" and "disobedience" are contrasted.

Acts 14:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks **believed**. 2 But the **unbelieving** Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.

The Greek word (apeithéō) translated "unbelieving" here is the same word that we defined earlier. Now, note the correct translation.

Acts 14:1-2 (ASV) 1 And it came to pass in Iconium that they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks **believed**. 2 But the Jews that were **disobedient** stirred up the souls of the Gentiles, and made them evil affected against the brethren.

The Jews and Greeks who "**believed**" were evidently "**obedient**". If not, how could they be put in stark contrast to those who were "**disobedient**"?

Saving faith is an obedient faith!

“God Is My Co-Pilot”

by Lloyd Atherton

Does the title sound familiar? It is the title of a movie, a book, various articles, and most popularly, bumper stickers. It expresses what seems to be a noble sentiment — God is with me as my co-pilot where ever I go. But is the sentiment really noble? Please think with me for a moment.

A co-pilot is second in command. He sits in the second or right-hand seat. The pilot-in-command (in aviation terms he is called the “P.I.C.”) sits in the left-hand seat. The co-pilot is subordinate to and receives orders from the pilot.

There is nothing more clearly taught in both the Old testament and New, than the necessity of submitting to the authority of Almighty God. He is number one. He is the “P.I.C.”. The writer of Ecclesiastes stated in Eccl. 12:13-14, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. 14) For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*” (NKJV) We must seek His will and do it rather than seeking God’s endorsement for what we want to do!

Jesus said, “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*” (Matt. 7:21, NKJV)

The question is, who is in charge of your life, God or you? Friend, if God is your co-pilot, **change seats!**

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