



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

SOME PEOPLE SAY: “IT REALLY DOESN’T MATTER WHAT A PERSON BELIEVES, AS LONG AS HE IS SINCERE”

Wayne Cox

This indeed is a prevalent philosophy held by countless people of our day, especially by those in the “ecumenical” movement. However, popularity never has and never will make a thing right! In fact, so often in spiritual matters the popular route is usually the wrong route (Matthew 7:13,14). The Israelites were warned against “following a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). Instead of our seeking to derive our precepts from the majority, we had best obtain them from the Almighty.

Sincerity is important, and we would never minimize its significance. Jesus did not mince words when He rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their insincerity (Matthew 23). Paul prayed for the Philippians to be “*sincere and without offense till the day of Christ*” (Philippians 1:10). God abhors hypocrisy and so do we, whether it is found in money-grubbing politicians or evangelistic charlatans.

However, sincerity alone does not suffice. History is replete with examples of those who sincerely thought they were right, but were just as wrong as could be. Centuries ago, Christopher Columbus was warned of sailing off the edge of the earth by those who honestly believed the earth was flat. It is believed that George Washington’s life was ended prematurely by sincere doctors who thought that bloodletting was helpful rather than hurtful.

John Wilkes Booth actually thought he was doing our country a favor by assassinating Abraham Lincoln; madman Hitler had similar feelings as he exterminated Jews.

The Bible also contains the actions and disastrous consequences of those who were sincere — but who were sincerely wrong. Uzzah honestly thought he was protecting the ark of the covenant, when in fact, his touching it was a clear case of disobedience (2 Samuel 6:6,7). Saul of Tarsus, in all good conscience, persecuted the church, thinking all the while he was doing God’s bidding (Acts 22:1).

If it does not matter what one believes just so he is sincere, then why did Jesus warn the disciples: “*Take heed that no man deceive you*” (Matthew 24:4)? Why worry about being deceived if it does not matter what one believes? Paul told Timothy to “*charge some that they teach no other doctrine*” (1 Timothy 1:3). Jesus said: “*But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*” (Matthew 15:3). What is wrong with teaching another doctrine and/or teaching for doctrines the commandments of men if it does not matter what a person believes as long as he is sincere?

Yes, sincerity **is** important. But let it also be known that **truth** is likewise important — since only the truth can make us free (John 8:32). It does matter what one believes; the very reason God gave His Word is for us to know both what to believe and obey!

May we all sincerely submit to His Will.

THINGS THAT WAR AGAINST THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CHURCH

Bill Goring

Instead of people blaming the church for everything under the sun....why don't they go to work and correct those problems?? Some of the reasons we can see are:

A Lack of Bible knowledge

- ▶ Isaiah 5:13 “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”
- ▶ Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Worldliness

The church is overflowing with worldliness.

- ▶ Titus 2:12 “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
- ▶ James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
- ▶ 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

We need to be demanding purity in the members of the church.

Slowing down or stopping our opposition to error

- ▶ Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
- ▶ We are to reprove error; Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
- ▶ We are to hate evil; Amos 5:15 “Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

We slow down or stop our opposition when we:

- ▶ Just look for good.
 - We have some who say, “Just look for the good in the world and religion—be positive and don’t worry about error or you may become paranoid.”
 - Mark 12:24 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?”
- ▶ Desire smooth words.
 - Isa. 30:10 “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:”

Let us be determined that the invincible church be known in all the earth! “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:21).

Observations and Concerns

December 14, 2022

Welcome Visitors! Please be sure and aware you are appreciated.

“Praise ye the LORD: for *it is* good to sing praises unto our God; for *it is* pleasant; *and* praise is comely” (Psalm 147:1).

Expression of Gratitude: We are thankful for all those who clean the building and prepare the communion trays each week. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Lord willing, there will be a ***Budget Planning Meeting*** for the men of the congregation Friday evening, January 6 at 6 P.M.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ ***Nelda Hudson*** is scheduled to have some medical tests soon.
- ▶ ***Bill Dilks*** is still recovering after his cancer treatments. His white blood cell count is very low, but we are thankful that he is feeling better than he had been.
- ▶ ***Ed Dindy***, father of Tia Swearingen, has been diagnosed with cancer and has a CT scan scheduled for next week. After the results of the scan come in, he should get a treatment plan.
- ▶ ***Amanda Georgakus***, friend of Sherry Carmona, has breast cancer and it has metastasized to her spine.
- ▶ ***The mother of Corey Johnson*** has been very ill and in the hospital in OKC. Corey is one of the BibleWay Media podcasters.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Dec. 14	Sunday, Dec. 18 AM
		Sunday, Dec. 18 PM	
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop
	Lord's Supper		Ross Swearingen
	Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Russ Earl
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Russ Earl	Chris Nelson
Sundays			
Bible Classes.	9:30 AM		
Worship	10:30 AM		
Worship	5:00 PM		
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes.	7:00 PM		
Website: oologahcofc.org			