



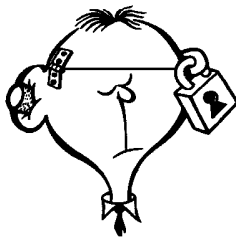
“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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

Are You Closed Minded?

Chuck Northrop

The way a Christian thinks is important. Paul in Philippians 4:8 revealed the kind of things Christians should think about. He wrote, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Just as important is how a Christians thinks about other things. That is whether he is narrow or broad minded, open or closed minded, conservative or liberal minded.



As a person considers the way a Christian thinks toward other things, he or she ought to realize it often depends upon the subject at hand. A Christian ought to be narrow minded toward the religious opinions of men and broad minded toward the truth of God found in His word. Further, a Christian ought to be open minded toward the doctrine of Christ and closed minded toward the doctrines of men. Subsequently, a Christian ought to be conservative when it comes to a “*Thus saith the Lord*” and liberal minded when it comes to giving of ourselves and of our means. This is not being wishy washy but striving to help others understand how Christians ought to think.

Often, when Christians approach others about Christ and their soul’s salvation, their response is “I have my own religion!” What is this really saying? What are they trying to

communicate? In so many cases, their statement appears to be saying they are not interested in what we have to offer for they are satisfied in their present state and are not open to any further considerations. It is truly sad to see someone lost in error and not open minded enough to a study of the truth. No matter how sad it may be, it is their choice — a choice only they can make.

From another perspective, consider the Christian. A Christian is a person who has “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine” (Romans 6:17). He or she was open to the truth, received the truth, and accepted the truth. Thankfully, some continue to receive and accept the word which was planted in the soil of his or her heart. Sadly, however, others are no longer open to the truth. They “were once enlightened. . .and have tasted the good word of God” (Hebrews 6:4-5). They have closed their minds to God’s word, and because they have, “it is impossible. . .to renew them again unto repentance” (Hebrews 6:4,6). Like Israel of old, they have “an evil heart of unbelief” because they have been “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13). The exhortation of Hebrews should help to guard us against the wiles of Satan. Christians must be aware and take heed against this ever-present danger!

Brethren, the way a Christian thinks must be a prime and constant consideration. Christians must always keep their thoughts in-check lest they fall into condemnation. Disciples of Jesus always need to be aware of how closed mindedness toward the Word of God is an ever-pressing danger. Open mindedness, however, does not mean children of God are “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14). All men need to be open minded like the Bereans who “were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). When they heard teaching, they examined it, and if it was the word in truth, they accepted it.

Therefore, let each one of us consider our own state of mind which can be best examined by our acceptance of the truth when it is taught. ***How do you respond when the truth is taught?***

LESSONS FROM THE WORSHIP OF NADAB AND ABIHU

Roger D. Campbell

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord” (Leviticus 10:1,2). This passage is recorded in the Bible “for our learning” (Romans 15:4), so we need to ask ourselves, “What can we learn from this history?”

WORSHIP TO JEHOVAH IS A SERIOUS, SPECIAL AFFAIR.

Worship is different from other activities in life, it is special! Worship is giving honor to or paying homage to God. Note what God revealed about His attitude toward worship immediately after Nadab and Abihu died: “By those who come near Me, I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified” (Leviticus 10:3). In the book of Psalms it is written, “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker . . . Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool — He is holy” (Psalm 95:6; 99:5). Worship is not entertainment. It is not a time to play. It is not a time to have a conversation with others (during the worship). In our worship to God we must show our reverence to Him--that would include coming on time to the services, truly worshiping in spirit (John 4:24), and dressing in the proper clothes (if worshiping God is the most important part of our life, then why don’t we wear our best clothes?).

NOT ALL WORSHIP PLEASES GOD.

Nadab and Abihu worshiped God, didn’t they? Yes, but obviously God did not accept their worship! This is a strong warning to us, for it shows that there is such a thing as false or unacceptable worship. In fact, in this case those who were worshiping Jehovah were His own children! Thus, sometimes Jehovah even rejects the worship of His children (Read Isaiah 1:11,13, where it is said that Jehovah told the Israelites to bring no more sacrifices to Him, for He would not accept them). Many think that how we worship is not really very important, all that matters is that we worship in some way. That is the teaching of Satan! Look, the first worship about which we read in the Bible was the worship of Cain and Abel--Cain’s worship did not please Jehovah! “. . . who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

OUR WORSHIP MUST BE BASED ON THE COMMANDS/WORD OF GOD.

Just what mistake did Nadab and Abihu make? They offered a fire before the Lord “which He had not commanded them” (Leviticus 10:1). Thus, the idea for using that particular fire came not from God, but from the minds of those two sons of Aaron! We must not add to or take away from God’s commandments (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18,19). In worship we must do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, meaning by His authority (Colossians 3:17). In worship we must do only that which is authorized by the New Testament (Galatians 1:6-8)!

The Greatest Of All

- My greatest loss — the loss of my soul.
- My greatest object — to glorify God.
- My greatest goal — to win souls for Christ.
- My greatest prize — a crown of glory.
- My greatest joy — the joy of salvation.
- My greatest inheritance — heaven and its glories.

Observations and Concerns

March 29, 2023

Welcome Visitors! It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you.
“Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Philippians 4:20).
Expression of Gratitude: Let us remember this week to give thanks to our Father in heaven for those who spoke during our lectureship this past weekend.
This evening is the Fifth Wednesday Evening Singing.
The *Monthly Men’s Business Meeting* is Sunday evening, April 2, after services.
Azalea Gospel Meeting is April 2–5, 2023 with Toney Smith on “The Christian Life.”
Weleetka Gospel Meeting is April 16–19, 2023 with Jamie Beller on “In God We Trust.”

- Remember in Prayer:**
- ▶ It is good to have *Walter Jackson* back with us after his hospital stay.
 - ▶ *Lisa Earl* is recovering from hernia surgery, and we are thankful she’s been able to be present.
 - ▶ *Dicie Jackson* has a spot on her thymus gland and is scheduled to have it removed on April 3.
 - ▶ *Nelda Hudson* had another heart episode last week and was in the hospital.
 - ▶ *Jim Allison* fell last week, and while being treated, the doctors discovered he had a heart blockage and put a stint in. He is home recovering after being in the hospital.
 - ▶ *Dan* and *Marcella Dennis* have been ill. Dan with bronchitis, and Marcella with pneumonia.
 - ▶ We are grateful for the good progress made by *Amanda Georgakus*, friend of Sherry Carmona.

Extended Prayer List: *Joyce Cash* – ongoing health difficulties; *Dan & Marcella Dennis* – ongoing health issues; *Bill Dilks* – undergoing cancer treatments; *Sammy Gray* – continual health concerns; *Walter Jackson* – ongoing health matters; *Chuck Northrop* – blood disorder; *Vance & Darla Smith* – extended health problems; *Pat Taylor* – ongoing health issues; *Ed Dindy* – awaiting cancer treatments; *LeAnna Shafer* – undergoing chemotherapy treatments; *Betty Jackson* – prolonged health issues; *Sam Orr* – extended health concerns; *Amanda Georgakus* – struggling with cancer; *Ed Clark* – recovering from recent fall.

April Birthday: *Chloe Earl* – 10; April Anniversary: *Ed & Sherry Carmona* – 22.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Mar. 29	Sunday, Apr. 2 AM
		Sunday, Apr. 2 PM	
	Announcements	Russ Earl	
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		
	Lord’s Supper		
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	