



Oologah Observer

“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

True Nobility

Chuck Northrop

Have you ever considered what true nobility is? To some, nobility is aristocracy. To them, to be noble would be to be born into a family of high class on the social scale. Others believe nobility is to be famous. Still others think of someone or something which is grand or impressive as being noble. When considering nobility, many people have conjured up the image in their mind's eye of men and women decked out in beautiful formal dress at a social ball. No doubt, some people think about nobility as possessing outstanding qualities. They may think of a particular person or group of people who possesses the highest moral qualities and is of superior character. He, she, or they can be looked up to by all men. They are honorable and of such character all men ought to follow their example.

This latter ideal is what every person ought to strive to obtain, and it is the purpose of this article. We want you to be noble! Our desire is for you to possess the most outstanding characteristics found in man. Do you want to be noble in this sense? If so, consider the following:

On Paul's second missionary journey, he took the gospel into Macedonia of Europe. His first major stop was Philippi and then Thessalonica. At that time, Thessalonica served as the capital of one of the four districts of Macedonia. Within this city, Paul found a Jewish synagogue and began teaching “that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, who I preach unto you, is Christ” (Acts 17:3). Within three weeks, the Lord's church was planted in this city with Jews, God-fearing Greeks, and some leading women (Acts 17:4). However, because of some unbelieving Jews, Paul and his company were sent away.

They traveled fifty miles southwest and came to the city of Berea. There, as Paul's usual practice was, they taught in the synagogue. Concerning the citizens of Berea, Luke recorded this marvelous commendation: “These 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). The Bereans were noble people because they possessed outstanding qualities, and we want you to be like the noble Bereans!

What made the Bereans noble? If a person is going to possess the nobility of the Bereans, they must know and understand their noble traits, and they must follow their noble example. So, what made them noble? Let's look at the text to find out.

First, they were noble because “they received the word...” To receive the word means to understand and obey it. The word is the gospel. Unlike some of the Jews of Thessalonica who rejected the gospel in order to keep their traditions, the Jews of Berea received the word. It is truly a noble trait to receive the gospel. The gravest mistake of mankind is to reject the gospel of Christ, and yet so many people are doing this very thing. How sad it is for Christ to give Himself as a sacrifice for man's sins, and then to be rejected by men. It is absolutely mind boggling to think of people who reject the love of God through Christ Jesus. His love ought to cause us to desire to know His will and obey it. It ought to cause us to receive His word like the noble Bereans. Do you desire to be noble? True nobility is to receive the word of God.

Second, the Bereans were noble because “they received the word with readiness of mind.” The Bereans received the word, but they did more than just that. They received it with readiness of mind. In other words, their reception of the gospel was deliberate and with eagerness. They were anxious to learn the word of God. Interestingly in the original Koine Greek, the term translated readiness is a compound word literally meaning forward-mind. It carries the idea of stretching the mind forward. In contrast to the Thessalonians who received the word for only three weeks, the Bereans continued to listen to the preaching of the gospel of Christ. The Bereans stand as an exceptional example of nobility and are worthy of imitation. All men ought to be like the noble Bereans. Do you desire nobility? True nobility is to receive the gospel with eagerness.

Finally, the Bereans were noble because they “searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” In other words, they were people of the Book — the Bible. They examined the Old Testament scriptures which clearly indicates they understood them to be the inspired word of God. Luke's point is evident. They evaluated Paul's preaching by the scriptures. The original indicates they thoroughly and continually analyzed Paul's preaching. It was a daily concern for them. They did not just take Paul's word for it but were discerning. Unlike the Bereans, too many simply accept what they have been taught rather than examining the scriptures. What about us? Do we desire nobility? True nobility is to daily search the scriptures and test the words of men whether they are of God or not.

We desire you to be noble! So please follow the noble example of the Bereans by receiving the word with readiness of mind and searching the scriptures daily whether these things are so.

TRUE GREATNESS

Kevin Rutherford

The book of Esther is as much about Haman as it is about Esther. Haman was a Persian Prince who was elevated to a position of authority above the other princes (Esther 3:1ff). Haman loved this new position. The servants of the king bowed to him, and he viewed himself as being very great. Because he thought he was so great, Mordecai’s refusal to bow to Haman angered him greatly. He was so angered by this he determined to destroy Mordecai and all of Mordecai’s people, the Jews.

Haman’s plot was discovered and revealed to the king eventually. However, Haman would face some humiliation before then. For example, the king commanded Haman to honor Mordecai (Esther 6). Mordecai had saved the life of the king. The king asked Haman how he would treat a man that the king wanted to honor. In his puffed up view of himself, Haman was sure the king wanted to honor him. Haman then proceeded to describe how he would like to be honored, and then the king told him to treat Mordecai to that honor.

Haman’s arrogance eventually led him to his death. When his plot to kill Mordecai and the Jews was revealed, the king sentenced him to death. What is ironic is the fact that the king had Haman hanged on a gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai (Esther 7).

Haman was arrogant. He had a view of himself the rest of the world did not share. He wanted to be admired and worshipped by all. His arrogance led to his downfall. He wanted to be great in the eyes of men. Do you?

Jesus Christ is great. He is the Son of God. While He is not viewed as great in the eyes of all men, His greatness is genuine. Jesus Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:18). Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). Truly Jesus Christ is great! Despite His true greatness, Jesus Christ did not become puffed up with Himself while here on this earth.

A wonderful example of the humility of Christ, and what it truly means to be great, is found in John chapter thirteen. Jesus humbly washed the feet of His disciples. When He finished, He spoke of the lesson His disciples should have learned from His example (John 13:13-17). He is Lord and Master, and yet He washed the feet of those who followed Him. The greater served the lesser. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet so that we would all learn the way to true greatness is found in serving others and not in demanding they serve us.

What a great contrast between Haman and Jesus. Haman was nothing but a man who desired to be admired and served. Jesus is the Son of God who came to serve those He had created by dying for them. Can you see the difference between artificial and true greatness?

Observations and Concerns

May 10, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are excited to have YOU with us today.

“Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹ Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (1 Chronicles 16:28-29).

Expression of Gratitude: We are thankful for the prayers offered up on behalf of those who are in poor health.

Roy Goddard will be our guest speaker Sunday morning. He is from the Bible Institute of Missouri.

VBS: June 11-14, 2023 Theme: Peter. Please start bringing snacks and drinks for VBS and leave them in the kitchen. Due to several of our number with severe food allergies, please make sure the snacks are store-bought and do contain nuts or peanut butter.

There will be a **farewell potluck and reception** for the Earl family after morning services on Sunday, May 28th. Please bring your favorite finger foods. Punch and cake will be provided.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** continues recovering. She is scheduled to meet with an oncologist on May 30th.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** had a procedure on her heart yesterday.
- ▶ **Sherry Carmona** is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on June 15th.
- ▶ **Bobbye Mooney**, friend of the Nelsons, has cancer in her liver, lungs, and bones.
- ▶ **Jacob Weston**, grandson of the Hudsons, is recovering from a dog attack.
- ▶ **Shawna Northrop**, daughter-in-law of Chuck and Jody, was in the hospital this week with complications from kidney stones.

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