



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

“Cut and Dried”

Chuck Northrop

The expression “cut and dried” probably comes from agriculture referring to hay or wheat or some other crop as it is processed from the fields. It has come to mean something which is complete or finished.

Recently, while reading an article about this very thing, the writer said, “the more narrow our viewpoints the more ‘cut and dried’ our conclusions and positions.” In consideration of this statement, there are some alarming things about it. The narrowness or broadness of a Christian should not depend upon a person’s viewpoints but upon the word of God. It is “cut and dried” because the life of a Christian is the narrow way — not because of any person’s viewpoint but because of what our Lord taught in the great Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). God’s way is the narrow way because people must not add to it, take from it (Revelation 22:18-19), or go beyond it (2 John 9).

Another alarm brought out in the article was, “For a matter to be ‘cut and dried’ tends to relieve us of any obligation to study, listen or struggle with the problems involved.” Christians need to understand the truth which was not conveyed in the foregoing statement. Truth must have the characteristic of being “cut and dried” for it to be truth. Truth cannot be

wishy washy with many different and opposing conclusions. Since truth is “cut and dried,” it generates an urgent need to study in order to understand the narrowness of truth. Nadab and Abihu should have spent a little more time in trying to understand the will of God in order to please Him (Leviticus 10:1-2). Uzza ought to have used more energy searching the truth to understand how to move the ark (1 Chronicles 13:7-10). Certainly, David did after Uzza was struck dead because when they went back to bring the ark to Jerusalem, David said, “God made a breach upon us, for that we sought Him not after the due order.” The Levites then brought the ark “as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord” (1 Chronicles 15:13-15).

Christians should seek to understand truth because of their love for God (John 14:15). They conform their lives to the “cut and dried” truth because they realize it is God’s will, and there are great blessings awaiting those who will obey His will. The article continued, “truth is alive...” He is right. Truth is alive, but not because it changes from culture to culture, generation to generation, or person to person, but because it changes lives. Paul stated in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Truth is alive because it teaches (doctrine), and we test (reproof) ourselves accordingly; then we make the needed corrections in order to be perfect or mature.

It is foolish for a person to think mankind cannot know the truth absolutely since Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). God is not some foolish or vicious God who gives instructions which cannot be understood. Men will be judged according to His word (John 12:48), and only a malicious and vicious God would judge mankind according to what men are not able to understand. Since God is a loving God, and all men will be judged according to His word; then all men can know His word, His truth, and His will.

The proper understanding of God’s holy word takes effort, study, and meditation. Yes, the word of God is “cut and dried.” Thus, a person’s beliefs and convictions should also be “cut and dried” because they should be based upon the Divine standard of God’s sanctified truth.

Claiming to Be Something You Aren’t

David Long

Claiming something you are doesn’t mean you are what you claim. A man can claim to be a woman, but he can never be a woman or the other way around, a woman can never be a

man. A person may identify as a cat, but they can never be a cat. A person can claim to be a Christian, but if they haven't done those things to become a Christian, then they can never be a Christian. There will be those at Judgement Day who claim they did things in the name of Jesus, but Jesus will say He never knew them. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Chilling Words

Jesse Dickison

Every time I read these words found in Luke 22:31, a chill goes up my back. We read these words of Jesus: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat." Not only did Satan know who Simon (Peter) was, but he had specifically asked for him that he might sift him as wheat. That word *sift* comes from the word in the original language that means a *sieve*. In other words, Satan wanted to put Simon through a sieve, to sift him. This certainly shows that Satan had nothing good in mind for Simon Peter.

Dear reader, we must understand that Simon Peter is not the only person whom Satan has sought. The apostle Peter later himself wrote, "Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The truth is, Satan is seeking you, too. His name literally means "adversary, plotter, accuser." He wants to destroy your soul: "And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28). Some people deny the existence of Satan, saying that he is not real and that he is just the personification of evil. Job, Peter and our Lord Jesus Christ would tell us that he is real. Even Jesus was tempted (Hebrews 4:14; Matthew 4:1-11); but unlike us, He never gave in to the temptation by sinning.

What will you do today to ward off the attacks of the tempter? The only way you can combat his fiery darts is by putting on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). This includes adhering to the truth and righteousness that is through the gospel, clinging tightly to salvation, regularly equipping yourself through studying His Word and praying to God. By doing all of this, you can win against the devil who seeks to destroy you (Ephesians 6:11). Think about these things. They are important.

Observations and Concerns

February 28, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We appreciate the encouragement you provide us by your coming.

Praise in Psalm: "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:9).

Declaration of Appreciation: Be sure to offer up prayers of thanksgiving each day for God's provisions, health, and safety.

Our monthly youth devo will be on Friday, March 1st at 6:00 pm at the church building in Ramona. Please bring a side or dessert to go with sandwiches and chips.

The theme of the annual Oologah lectureship this year is "**Conversions in Acts**" and is scheduled for March 22-24. Please plan to attend and invite others. Flyers are available in the foyer.

The monthly **Men's Business Meeting** is Sunday evening, March 3, after services.

Just a reminder: Our **evening worship service** on the second Sunday of the month for the next few months will be at 2:00 pm.

We rejoice with Pat Taylor that her daughter, Gina, was recently baptized into Christ.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Pat Taylor** was unable to have her scheduled surgery on her carotid artery this past Monday. It has not been rescheduled at this time.
- ▶ **Margie Casebolt**, mother of Jody Northrop, is struggling to recover from a recent fall.
- ▶ **Rosemary**, friend of Pat Taylor, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

March Birthdays: 10 - **Bill Dilks**; 15 - **Denise Hall**; 31 - **Dan Dennis**.

March Anniversary: 26 - **Hudsons**.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Feb. 28	Sunday, March 3 AM	Sunday, March 3 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes 9:30 AM	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Chris Nelson
Worship 10:30 AM	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Chris Nelson
Worship 5:00 PM (except 2 nd Sunday - 2 PM)	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
Lord's Supper (speaker)		Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes 7:00 PM	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks
	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson