

The Oologah Informer

October 6th, 2013

APOSTLE OF BLACK & WHITE
Garrett McGilvray

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Guest Speaker: Don Iverson

PM Sermon:

As Far as the East is from the West
(Psalm 103:11-12)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Report of India Work -
Don Iverson

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Christian Do's - Swearingen

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

All Scripture is given by the breath of God (2 Tim. 3:16), even to the point where the precise wording is divine in origin (observe, for example, the careful attention to precise verb tense or number in Matt. 22:31-32 and Gal. 3:16). It is interesting then that the Holy Spirit nevertheless allowed the writing style and personality of each individual writer to shine through. Thus we can detect a very distinct difference between James's letter and Paul's letters, and Paul's writing style can be distinguished from Peter's. This makes reading the Bible more interesting, but more importantly, the Holy Spirit apparently saw the benefit in using a variety of writers to reach a variety of readers.

John also had his own particular style which stands out as unique among the Bible writers, and his letters and gospel are favorites among many. Because of his particular style, we might call him "the apostle of black and white." His love for simple contrasting images is well known, especially his way of referring to righteousness and wickedness as light versus darkness. Another way the style of "the apostle of black and white" becomes apparent is his fondness for teaching by way of contrasting absolute statements in an either/or fashion. Nowhere else in Scripture do we see such simple contrasts with as great a frequency until we move back to Proverbs. Sample some of John's passages and you'll readily observe his preference for positioning spiritual truths in contrasting black and white:

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. (1 John 1:8-9)

By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar. (1 John 2:3-4)

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light. (1 John 2:9-10)

Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. (1 John 3:6)

He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. (1 John 3:7-8)

Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh is not of God. (1 John 4:2-3)

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both Father and the Son. (2 John 9)

He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. (3 John 11)

This partial listing is surely sufficient to give you the idea. Although John's gospel is of a different nature, his love of black or white statements makes appearances there too (in John 3 for example: vv. 18, 20-21, 31)*. Sometimes John simply states one half of the contrast, but in similar absolute fashion: "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God" (1 John 4:15), or, "He who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). A number of times in 1 John he introduces or summarizes his either/or statements with, "By this we know..."

Knowing John's writing preferences is more than just interesting or endearing. The knowledge of his use of language also helps us to properly understand what he says without over-applying his statements. For example, if we treat his statement, "Everyone who loves is born of God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8, in the context of brotherly love) as an absolute statement in isolation, we would be going too far, because there are very many people in this world who love their brethren, yet who do not even believe in Jesus. It would be incorrect to use this passage to claim that these unbelievers are born of God. Such an interpretation would even contradict others of John's either/or statements, such as, "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also" (1 John 2:23). Similarly, it is not merely hypothetical that there be those who fully acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, yet who do not love the brethren. Instead, John uses this way to show how to distinguish right from wrong in regard to a particular aspect. Knowing this can help us to better understand John's writing, especially 1 John where this feature of his is most prevalent. Why not take the time now to read through 1 John and see for yourself?

Announcements

Men's Meeting

Our monthly men's meeting is today after evening services. If you have anything for the agenda please tell Ross.

2nd Sunday Fellowship Meal

Our next Fellowship meal will be next Sunday after morning services. Please plan to stay and enjoy this time of fellowship with one another.

Gospel Meeting

The church in Ramona will be having a gospel meeting from Oct 6-9th. Their speaker is Brant Stubblefield. The theme for their meeting is "The Church then and now".

Area Wide Gospel Singing

We will be hosting an area wide gospel singing on Oct 12th from 5-7pm. Make plans now to come and enjoy this time of fellowship and singing praises to God with one another.

Guest Speaker

Don Iverson is our guest speaker today. He will be giving a report of the work in India. He will present his report during the Bible class hour and will present the morning sermon.

New Sermon Series

A new sermon series entitled: "Why I am a member of the Church of Christ" will begin in November. These lessons will be on Sunday nights. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to hear these important lessons.

Recent Prayer Requests

Joyce Cash – is having problems recovering from her knee surgery & now has pneumonia

The Benham family – lost two daughters in a car accident this week. They were students at Oologah.

Barbara Coats – is doing better.

Kenny (Patty Payne's husband) – is waiting to hear from his doctors.

Billy Andrews- (Grace's brother n law) is in the hospital in San Antonio, TX for multiple problems.

Megan Evans – is recovering from lung damage from a gas explosion in Tanzania.

Steve Lay's mother – is recovering from her fall in a nursing home in Claremore.

Thomas Hadley (grandson of Alex Dieselkamp, Russ' friend) – is in the hospital after being hit by a car while walking.

Several of our food pantry guests have requested prayers: Shelly Ward, Larry Bill (Blood pressure) and Judy Bill (lung problems).

Please keep all of these in your prayers.

Please keep the following in the prayers.

Ed & Barbara Coats

Allen & Joyce Cash

Mary Ann Haugh

Emma and Ruth (Darla Smith's sisters)

John Babb

Kennedy Cox

Larry Brown

Daphne Miller

Roy Daniel