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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.
Sonshiners: 4:45pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Lessons from John – Lesson 12
Death of the King
(John 19:12-18)

PM Sermon

Daniel – Lesson 6

Sunday AM Bible Class:

D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Singing Night

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

BibleWayMediaMedia.org

Daily podcasts available on our website
& mobile app

The Oologah church of Christ only uses
the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of
the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer

December 27th, 2020

Thoughts from the Preacher

“Family”

There are several events during the year that we use to spend extra time with family. While these can be good we must also make sure we spend time with the family of God, the most important family of all.

PROVE ALL THINGS

Hank Lawrence

The apostle Paul challenges all Christians to: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:21- 22). Jude tells us: “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” (Jude 3). Peter said: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). Christianity is not built upon blind faith that accepts a matter without asking questions. Proverbs 14:15 says: “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.” The noble Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if Paul taught the truth: “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). They did not take Paul’s word on the matter. Throughout the Scriptures, God never asks for blind obedience but proves Himself worthy of our worship.

God provides proof in a number of different ways. For example, in Isaiah 44:9-20, God makes a case against idol worship. He points out that idols are man-made, so how can they be greater than man? Idols are made in the image of man, yet man is limited. Idols are made from natural materials, such as wood, which is used for common everyday purposes. The same wood that forms an idol is used for heating and cooking. So how can it be a thing to worship? It cannot!

What evidence did God offer? One of the first pieces of evidence is the evidence of history. God states what will be and then causes it to come about. Consider Hebrews 6:13-20 “For when God made promise to Abraham because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was

impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

God proved Himself by two unchangeable things: His purpose and His promise. The fulfillment of prophecy is strong evidence of God’s knowledge and power. Jesus also offered many proofs of His deity. In John 5:1-16 Jesus healed a paralyzed man on the Sabbath day. Rather than marvel at this miracle, the Jews were upset because Jesus told a man to work on the Sabbath (carrying his pallet) and Jesus, himself, worked by healing on the Sabbath. Jesus points out the evidence that God supported what Jesus asked of the man because the man was healed: “But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” (John:17-18). Jesus points out the evidence that God supported what Jesus asked of the man because the man was healed. But Jesus also said that the man was healed by his own work, claiming to be divine.

Jesus then offers proof of His deity: “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise” (John 5:19). The miracles that Jesus has done are by God’s power and support (proof by history). Jesus continues: “For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will” (John 5:20- 21). Greater miracles will be accomplished in the future, including the raising of the dead (proof by prophecy). Notice that Jesus did not ask the people to just accept him, but he offers two proofs and three witnesses to his claims (John 5:31).

If God finds it important to prove Himself, we can do no less. When we teach others, we must be ready to defend the gospel with hard evidence. Do not offer a poor substitute for the glories that have already been revealed. God gave us proof; give that same proof to others: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Timothy 3:16). Let us make sure our reasoning is sound and not a disguised form of our own opinions.