

The Better Way

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

SPEAKING WHERE THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK, SILENT WHERE THE SCRIPTURES ARE SILENT

J. Noel Merideth

An important meeting was held at the house of Abraham Altars some time in the early summer of 1809, where a large group gathered to discuss plans for future organization (Lester G. McAllister, *Thomas Campbell Man of the Book*, p. 97). A deep feeling of solemnity pervaded the assembly when Thomas Campbell, having opened the meeting in the usual manner, and, in earnest prayer, especially invoked the Divine guidance, proceeded to rehearse with unusual force the manifold evils of religious divisions. He pointed out that God had provided in His sacred Word, an infallible standard, which was all-sufficient and alone-sufficient, as a basis of union and Christian co-operation. Finally, after having again and again reviewed the ground of the reformation, he went on to announce, in the most simple and emphatic terms, the great principle or rule upon which they should act. "That rule, my highly respected hearers," said he in conclusion, "is this, *Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; and where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent*" (Robert Richardson, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*. Vol. 1, p. 237).

The idea which Campbell stated in this motto was not new. Earlier in 1659, Edward Stillingfleet had said: "For the church to require more than Christ himself did, or make the condition of her communion more than our Saviour did for discipleship, is wholly unwarranted." William Chillingworth in 1638, had argued that the Bible was the sole authority in matters of salvation (Earl West, *Search For the Ancient Order*, Vol. 1, p. 47).

Deuteronomy 4:2 reads, "**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you.**" "Every word of God is tried: he is a shield unto them that take refuge in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Pro. 30:5; 6).

I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God

shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book (Rev. 22:18, 19).

So at the beginning, middle, and end of the Bible there is a warning that we should do what the Lord commands and respect the silence of His Word. Jesus said:

Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Mat. 15:8, 9).

We need to study carefully the principle involved in the case of Nadab and Abihu. These were sons of Aaron who offered "**strange fire**" which the Lord "**commanded them not**" (Lev.10:1). These men died because they refused to respect the silence of God's Word. They did that which God "**commanded them not.**" They did not have authority to do what they did. "**And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord**" (Lev. 10:2). The Lord did not tolerate a new, unauthorized element in His worship. This example for our learning should be enough to stop people today from tampering with God's worship and bringing into His worship that which He has *not* commanded. The items of worship today in the Christian age are: (1) prayer (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2); (2) singing (Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12); (3) breaking bread, or observing the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-34); (4) liberal, cheerful giving (1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:7); and, (5) teaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14:26; Acts 2:42). The Bible does not say "Thou shalt not count beads as an act of worship," nor does it say "Thou shalt not have coke and cookies as the Lord's supper." But these are not commanded by the Lord for us to do as worship. Therefore, we do not have the authority to do them in worship. The five acts of worship were the only acts of worship practiced in the New Testament church worship. The Bible does

not say, "Thou shalt not use mechanical instruments of music in worship." Neither were Nadab and Abihu told, "Thou shalt not offer strange fire before the Lord." However, when they offered that "**which he commanded them not,**" their worship was wrong and the Lord killed them for it. *Singing* is authorized; *playing* a mechanical instrument is not (Eph. 5:19). Some are wanting to restructure the worship today. But we must go by what the Scriptures command. We must have book, chapter, and verse for what we do.

Hebrews 1:4-5 establishes the superiority of Christ over angels saying:

Having become by so much better than the angels as he hath inherited a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? and again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

The very fact that God had not said to any of the angels these words which He had spoken of the Son is proof of the inferiority of the angels to Christ.

The inspired Scriptures are for "**teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work**" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). This passage teaches in the clearest of language the all-sufficiency of Scripture.

Paul writes an important principle when he writes, "**...that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written**" (1 Cor. 4:6).

A thing is *scriptural* if it has been revealed in Scripture, either by precept or precedent or necessary implication. If we cannot prove our proposition by the Bible we should be honest enough to give it up. The only way the religious world can really unite is for all to accept in lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another in love, the one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God (Eph. 4:1-6).~

Deceased



JAMES: Practical Christianity (Part 2)

May 25th

Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

These timely lessons will be presented at the church of Christ
Located at 1380 Fish Hatchery Road, Huntsville, Texas
Phone: 936-581-4346 Email: bruces_l@netzero.com

The book of James is so practical that some have called it “the gospel of common sense.” Because the Christian faith is not just an organization to join or a few abstract doctrines to hold, a letter like James’ is immediately relevant to every Christian. The Christian faith requires each believer to bring every thought and action into conformity to the Word of God. It proclaims a Christian philosophy of life in stark contrast to the self-seeking, unfocused, and often tumultuous existence that frequently characterizes those outside the faith. A matter worth pondering is the fact that the very first topic James discussed involved the difficulties encountered in the Christian life. Totally foreign to him was the curious modern notion that becoming a Christian will make life easier, that all problems will disappear.

9:00 AM: Raymond Wiseman – *The Sin Of Partiality* (2:1-13)

10:00 AM: John West - *The Relationship Between Faith & Works* (2:14-26)

11:00 AM: David Brown - *The Use & Abuse Of The Tongue* (3:1-12)

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

1:30 PM: Jose Gamez - *Wisdom From Above* (3:13-18)

2:30 PM: Raymond Wiseman - *Friendship With The World Is Enmity With God* (4:1-12)

3:30 PM: *Question & Answer Session*

A Study In
THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Jeremiah Ezekiel
Lamentations Daniel
Isaiah

Sunday Morning Bible Class
David P. Brown

A Study Of
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Teacher:
David P. Brown

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.churchesofchrist.com

- Live broadcast
- Sermon videos
- Articles
- Lectureship videos
- Debates
- Bible Study Course
- Bible Reading Schedule
- Links to Faithful works

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, May 11th:** Graduation Banquet
- **Saturday, May 25th:** Fish Hatchery Rd Lectureship (Part #2)
- **Sunday, May 26th:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, May 28th:** Ladies' Bible Class
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

Announcements	John West
Scripture Reading	Stephen Cohn Rev. 14:1-5
Song Leader	Gary Blasingame
Prayer	Bret Bailey/Ken Cohn (AM) Eric Paluka/Joshua West (PM)
Speaker	David Brown
Lord's Table (AM) (Mark 14:37-42)	
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
Bret Bailey	John West
Lord's Table (PM)	
J.D. Gunter	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor	Andrew Paluka

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements	J.D. Gunter
Speaker	Ken Cohn
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown

FOR MAY

Prepare Communion	Humphrey
Lock Buildings	Bailey
Prepare Bulletin Board	N. Cohn

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

April McCann, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Lynne Humphrey, Noah Hackworth, Edith Young, Bob Terry, Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Is there a woman in the Bible named Noah?

Answer to last week's question:
Zacchaeus; Luke 19:1-8