



WAYMARKS

"Set thee up WAYMARKS, make thee guide-posts; set thy heart toward the highway..." Jeremiah 31:21

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Johnny Ramsey
EVANGELIST

The men had a wonderful breakfast together last Saturday. TEX HAMILTON and BOB CARROTHERS are great cooks and the rest of us were excellent eaters! MAC WEAVER and son-in-law, TOM are superb dishwashers and the rest of us made a big mess so they could prove their work skills. All in all it was a morning 45 of us will cherish. That same evening the elders and their wives put on a fine meal for deacons and preachers and wives. Very thoughtful of them - except for that hot red pepper some of us sprinkled on the chicken and spaghetti dish. BILL PAINTER and I are still wiping the tears away. JOHN TYSON asked all of us to tell about our courtship days. You need to get BOBBY and JUNE WATTS and GARY and SARAH FALLIS to share their brilliant stories. Lots of laughter and good times. We even learned that a certain preacher ("mustachio") eloped! Several of the men made a mistake in saying too many sweet things about their wives and now IRIS expects "mushy" words, too. It was a good time for all.

In a more sensitive way, we are in the midst of serious and prayerful consideration, as a congregation of future elders for Brown Trail. We have had 3 lessons on this specific matter lately as we evaluate present elders and select new ones in the light of Bible teaching. Let us pray and study diligently.

DAVE is doing great work with The Truth In Love. Spesking often in many area churches, he has been able to successfully raise funds and stir up interest in this great opportunity of spreading the Gospel.

It has been a real joy to teach in the School of Preaching. The young men challenge us to do our best. Let us pray for this work.

Please read the articles in the bulletin carefully.

The New Testament not only reveals the religion of Christ in vivid detail, but also gives a solemn warning to anyone who would add to or take away from the pattern of Christianity. Read 2 Jno. 9 and Rev. 22:18-19. Jesus makes it clear that, "The seed of the kingdom is the word of God" (Lk. 8:11). Thus, the power of truth resides not in apostolic succession, nor in the creeds and catechisms of men, but in the gospel of Christ. That gospel is contained within the New Testament. We dare not preach any other (Gal. 1:6-9).

Even the casual reader of the Bible would admit that pure Christianity existed in the first century. The New Testament gives us a clear picture of the church which Jesus built (Matt. 16:18). The worship, doctrine and life of the early Christians can be ascertained from a study of the word of God. Regardless of what has transpired between the first century and the twentieth, one can be a Christian today just like Paul, Peter, Stephen and Philip. Not "this kind" or "that kind" of Christian, but just a Christian: simply a member of the same church the first century Christians were members of. How? If we do what they did, teach what they taught, we will certainly be what they were. What denomination would that make us members of? Why, none, of course -- and that is the point! None of the denominations were in existence for several centuries. Jesus prayed for unity, not diversity in religion (Jno. 17:20-21). Paul condemned division among believers (1 Cor. 1:10-13). We know, therefore, that the early Christians were members of the church of Christ and not of any sectarian movement. JR

The New Testament has 27 books in it, the first four: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, tell us the life of Christ. Then the book of Acts tells us how to become a Christian. Twenty-one epistles, Romans through Jude, tell us

how to live the Christian life. Very logically the book of Revelation, tells us how to have the hope of a Christian, how to die in Christ. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13).

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life," (Rev. 2:10). They, the saints, overcame him, the Devil, through the blood of Christ and the word of their testimony (Rev. 12:11). So Jesus said, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne even as I also overcame" (Rev. 3:21). "He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and they are called and faithful and chosen," is the brilliant theme of Revelation 17:14. The comprehensive theme of God's entire message from first to last is taught in the book of Revelation. Paradise lost in Eden (Gen. 3) is regained in the last scene of the last chapter of the final book of the Bible (Rev. 22:14). JR

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is coming soon



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