

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,
Terry Cantrell, Ora Cash,
Dickie & Joann Crouch, Emily Devereux,
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Bobby Mills,
Bill Parr, Sophia Sears,
Earline Smith, Linda Smith,
Barbara Staten, Joann White
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,
Darlene Wilson, Geneva Wortham,
and those engaged in teaching the lost.

If you notice someone’s absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself (Proverbs 14:14).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Terry Cantrell made two trips to the Little Rock hospital last week with another serious kidney stone attack. The doctor she saw couldn’t help, so she is planning to see another in West Memphis tomorrow.

Trey Smith had surgery on his tongue again Friday.

Jake Smith broke a bone in his hand.

OTHER NEWS:

SINGING & SANDWICHES: Our evening assembly today will emphasize praise and admonition in “psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs,” following which we shall enjoy a light supper together. We would be happy to have all visitors join us.

ANNUAL GOSPEL SINGING: The 18th gathering of Christians for the Washington Avenue Singing is scheduled for Friday this week, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Refreshments are to be served.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Zach Biggers - Tuesday
Don Faust - Thursday
Ami Biggers - Friday
Randy Blake - Saturday

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

Don & Irene Faust - Today

QUOTES WORTH CLIPPING:

We distinguish the excellent man from the common man by saying that the former is the one who makes great demands upon himself, and the latter who makes no demands on himself.

-Jose Ortega y Gasset

Welcome
to the Assemblies of
Harrisburg
Church of Christ

P. O. Box 266
(504 N. Brooks St)
Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2965

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00
Worship 9:45; 6:00

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00

Elders:

Ray Blanchard 578-2559
Bill Mears 578-9650
Mark Weston 931-2790

Evangelist:

Al Parr 578-9154
(Cell) 903-721-0332

World Evangelism:

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.;
- ◆Int’l Bible Academe;

Benevolence:

- ◆Children’s Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

★REMEMBER★

Elders & Deacons meet
next Sunday night

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

May 2, 2010

An Atheist Denies That Which the Devil Admits

Bill Dillon

The Bible says, “*The devils also believe, and tremble*” (James 2:19), yet an atheist will not go that far. He doesn’t believe, period! What are the grounds of disbelief? Some say :

1. “I don’t believe in God because I can’t see Him.” But we believe in other things we can’t see, namely love, hate, electricity, etc.

2. “God’s existence can’t be proven by the scientists.” Perhaps scientists don’t have big enough laboratories and test tubes! Don’t limit God to the measure of our own ideas. The Lord said, “*Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself*” (Psalm 50:21).

3. “I can’t understand all about God.” But the man who believes only what he can understand must either have an enormously large brain or a very small creed. God has given, in the Bible, the specific information we need to know about Him and our responsibilities (Acts 17:22-31; 22:16; Rom. 12).

An appeal to the world itself helps us to see the evidence of God. Can there be a work of art without an artist? A design without a designer? An effect without a cause? God’s wisdom and power are displayed in nature so that only “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God*” (Psalm 14:1). Just as surely as a house has a builder, so the universe has a maker (Hebrews 3:4).

The certainty of God’s existence is not at all affected by persistent denials of Him. Our God, He is alive!

“Understandest Thou What Thou Readest!” (Considering So-called “Difficult Passages” of the Bible)

In this series we shall occasionally refer to, and quote from, some who have studied the scriptures before us. Nevertheless, our goal shall always be to seek our understanding of God’s word *from within the pages of God’s word itself*. As a new Christian I was taught by a wise and able evangelist that “the best commentary on a passage of scripture is another passage of scripture.” I have ever after believed that the best way to understand the Bible is to *read the Bible*, and it has often been my happy lot to find, by continued patient reading, the key to understanding a passage that for a time had left me confused.

In the King James Version of the Bible there are over 240 verses which speak of man’s understanding of the God’s word. Some show the error of *failing* to understand, some encourage those who *do* understand. Others state plainly that man *can* understand the scriptures, and still others *require* man to understand them. I have long preached “*You can* understand the Bible,” and I firmly believe that within every person capable of understanding *any* human communication is the capacity to understand the communication of the Creator to His beloved creation.

Why Did Jesus Die?

Members of the church are familiar with the blessing which Jesus pronounced upon Peter when that apostle declared his faith that Jesus is the Son of God (Matt. 16:16-18). Just a few lines later (verse 23), however, Matthew records that Jesus said to Peter, “Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me.”

How could a person receive such a blessing in one moment, and in the next be given such a rebuke? How could one who boldly and rightly confessed such faith in Christ, almost immediately thereafter deserve the appellation of Satan? The answer to both questions is in the fact that **Peter denied the necessity of the death of Jesus** (verses 21-22). There are a few today who deny that Jesus died, but multitudes more who don’t yet understand why that death was necessary. God has revealed the answer to this great question, and *you can understand it*.

**There is not one who cannot benefit from His sacrifice
and be saved from punishment for sin.**

The Bible several times records the fact that Jesus sent His apostles to “preach the gospel” to the whole world (Mark 16:15). One of the men whom Jesus chose for this work (Paul of Tarsus) wrote that the gospel includes the facts that [1] Jesus died, [2] Jesus was buried and [3] Jesus rose from the dead (I Cor. 15:1-4). Many thousands of people find hope in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but why did He die in the first place?

**When laws are
violated, a penalty
payment is due.**

The historical political facts are that Jesus was arrested because the leaders of the Jews were envious of Him, and he was sentenced to death by the Roman governor who was willing rather to please people than to do what he knew to be right (Mark 15:10-15). But if Jesus is the Son of God did He not have power to prevent their killing Him? If He had such power, why did He not use it?

That was precisely the question of some people present during the crucifixion of Jesus. In Matthew 27:39-44 we read that they mocked him: “If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross,” and “If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.” So why didn’t He? It’s a good question, and there are good answers.

Jesus died to pay the price for my sins. In the eternal plan of God man has always been required to sacrifice something to God because of sin. “Sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). When laws are violated, a penalty payment is due. When man first sinned, God provided a plan by which man could sacrifice an animal to atone for his sin (Gen. 4:1-7). When God separated the nation of Israel unto Himself and gave them His law (*see the book of Exodus*), He provided a detailed pattern of sacrifices of animals and crops (*see the book of Leviticus*). Whereas these were not perfect, Jesus is the *perfect* sacrifice that does not need to be offered repeatedly. The price was paid once and for all when He died (Heb. 10:1-14).

Jesus died to save me from punishment for sin. Just as the breaking of man’s laws demands fines, retribution or incarceration, so “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). For his sin against God, man deserves the punishment of death (Gen. 2:17). God is that holy (I Sam. 2:2), and sin is that bad compared with that holiness (Prov. 29:27). Instead of *my* dying for my sins, *Jesus* died in my place. Jesus is the “propitiation” for our sins (I Jn. 4:10). [*cont’d on insert*]

O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

(Psalm 119:97):

B E A D A I L Y B I B L E R E A D E R

WHY DO PEOPLE CUSS?

Kevin W. Rhodes

From my youth and the exposure at school to certain “dirty words,” I wondered, “Why do people cuss?” Early on it appears that children take great pleasure in using such words because it makes them feel “grown up,” or it gives them a feeling of power to know they are doing something that is forbidden. As children enter their teens, vulgar language has taken on a life of its own. It becomes the “cool” way to talk. After all, all the movie stars and sports figures use profanity. Coaches use it, some constantly. In the military it is considered part of the culture. Language previously considered reserved for sailors is now the preferred mode of expression for senior citizens at a quilting bee (No, I am not exaggerating). “Cussing” has become acceptable. In fact, I once requested that a fellow college student refrain from using profanity in my presence; he tried, but I had to continually inform him that certain words were still profanity. Television has assisted the public in distinguishing between “acceptable and unacceptable” profanity and vulgarity. So we are now allowing writers in Hollywood to determine social mores. Now who thinks this is a good idea?

Cussing does not really make sense even on a practical level. It certainly does not indicate intelligence. In school, even the person who couldn’t spell c-a-t knew how to cuss. Profanity has come to serve as a way for people with a very limited vocabulary to express themselves and give power to their statements. (Eliminate the profanity from most stand-up comics and nobody would laugh. They rely on morally shocking material instead of actual humor.) But this is not the entire answer. People cuss partially because we let them cuss. We do not object to their language. We are not offended. We have succumbed to the constant droning of such language so that, though we may not use it, we do not really mind it. The Lord not only abhors corrupt communication (Ephesians 4:29), but also the corrupting of our thoughts (Philippians 4:8). In every situation given above, people apply peer pressure in order to make foul language appear normal. We need to exert pressure on them from the other direction. ☞



Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers
Ephesians 4:29

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 4-25):
Sunday Bible Class 80
Sunday AM Worship 92
Sunday PM Worship 68
Contribution \$2,011
Wednesday PM Bible Class 76
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

Next Week’s Lessons:

AM: David’s Wise Counselors

PM: “Here Am I; Send Me”



Why Did Jesus Die? continued

Jesus died to fulfill the plan of God. When the apostle Peter first preached the gospel after the death of Jesus, he said that the envious Jews had “by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God” crucified Jesus (Acts 2:23). His death wasn’t in opposition to God’s plan; it was at the very heart of that plan. From the time that sin first entered into the world (Genesis 3:15), and throughout all the history of His speaking through the prophets (*i.e.* Isaiah 53:4-9), God said that the Messiah (anointed, chosen One) would die.

Jesus died for you, too. As the price paid for my sin, and as the agent of my salvation from punishment for sin, Jesus’ death is the greatest expression of the love of God (John 3:16). That love is for every soul in the world. There is not one who cannot benefit from His sacrifice and be saved from punishment for sin. Even those who, “by lawless hands,” crucified Him were shown God’s plan for their salvation. When they asked, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37), Peter did not tell them it was hopeless. He told them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ” (verse 38). He added, “The promise is to ... all who are afar off” (verse 39). One who wanted to obey this asked, “What doth hinder me?” The man of God answered, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest” (Acts 8:36-37).

As He faced His death, Jesus said, “I lay down my life ... No man taketh it from Me ... I have power to take it again” (John 10:17-18). It wasn’t a tragedy; it was good news for you. Believe in Jesus. Repent toward Jesus. Profess faith in Jesus. Be baptized into Jesus. That’s why He died. The death of Jesus is a topic which many “wrest ... unto their own destruction” (II Peter 3:16), but it needn’t be so. It is a topic which ***you can understand.*** - *Al Parr*

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