

The Floral Heights Informer

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Divine Revelation

God literally breathed His words into the prophets and apostles that the world may know how to obtain the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 3:3-5). Every divine word in the Bible is thereby inspired of God (cf. II Tim. 3:16). The divine words the prophets and apostles spoke had their origins with the heavenly Father (II Pet. 1:21). The apostle Paul wrote, *“For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through **revelation** of Jesus Christ”* (Gal. 1:11-12). The words these men spoke were thereby the *“commandments of God”* (cf. I Cor. 14:37).

The question often arises as to whether or not the age of divine revelation has ended. Some religious bodies, such as the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses, believe in modern day revelation through prophets. How is one to distinguish between religious words that have their origins with man and words that originate from God? The Bible itself is the origin of all spiritual thought. Unfortunately, many “religious” men have taken ideas from the Bible and supplement their own revelation to it. How do I determine true revelation from false revelation?

Two Tests to Determine the Validity of any Religious Message:

The apostle John wrote, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world”*

Local News:

Summer Gospel Meeting

There are only two weeks remaining until our gospel meeting begins. During the dates of August 6th – 11th Micky Galloway will be preaching for us. Lets take the time to tell our neighbors and pass out flyers.

Kyle Austin continues his long road to recovery from his recent surgery. Keep him in your prayers.

Announcement for the men of this Congregation:

The preaching and bulletin writing class for the men will begin this Monday at 9:30 AM at the church building. If anyone needs a ride to and from the class please let John know as soon as possible.

Check out our **live chat line on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM!**
<http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org/chat/>

Although the chat line is designed to preach to the lost members of the church are encouraged to log on and participate in Bible discussion too.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Verlon Powell
Rolling Meadows Health Care Room 31

Calvin York:
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

(I Jn. 4:1). One can certainly determine the origins of religious methods by two tests. First, simply compare what a speaker is saying to the word of God. If what the man is saying is found nowhere in the Bible then he or she is speaking their own revelation as opposed to divine revelation (cf. I Cor. 2:12-13; II Cor. 1:12; I Pet. 4:11).

Secondly, we must see that the word of God has been completed and thereby any additions to it are to be viewed as false doctrine or prophecy. The book of Ezra begins by saying, “*Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished...*” (Ezra 1:1). The word “*accomplished*” is from the Hebrew word *kalah* which means “to be complete, finished” (Young 378). A great lesson on the manner in which God’s word is complete is learned here. Jeremiah had prophesied that God’s people would remain in Babylonian captivity for seventy years (Jer. 25:11). Jeremiah also prophesied that the Jews would be released (Jer. 29:8-10). When the days of this prophecy were fulfilled (II Chron. 36:19-21) the word of God was said to be accomplished or complete.

Likewise, when all the word of God through the apostles and prophets had been delivered it was complete and in no more need of additions (cf. II Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3). God had promised that all nations would be blessed with the opportunity to receive the forgiveness of sins through Christ (Gen. 12:1-4; Gal. 3:8, 16). The information regarding this promise was termed a covenant and was to be distributed by the apostles and prophets (cf. Jer. 31:31; Eph. 3:3-5). When all matters of our salvation had been revealed there was no need for additional revelation (I Cor. 13:1ff). Divine revelation is thereby complete! Let us carefully consider both the words we speak and the words we hear when it comes to our salvation (Acts 4:12).

John C. Robertson

Unity in the Body of Christ

The Psalmist said, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalms 133:1). The word ‘unity’ is defined as “the state of being one, or united; oneness; singleness” (Webster’s New World Dictionary pp. 1563). Can two become one? There are machines used in the field of chemistry that enable two substances to be so thoroughly mixed that they bond in a state of homogeneity. Two can become one if willing, however, if there is an unwilling party homogeneity may be impossible. Amos records, “*Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?*” (Amos 3:3). When it comes to spiritual oneness there must be two or more willing parties to form the bond of unity commanded in God’s word. The objective of this lesson will be to illustrate that Bible unity can be achieved by Christians. Secondly, we shall note that God commands unity and thirdly we shall see that this unity has its foundation in truth.

I. Unwilling and confused substances:

- A. There are chemical properties of some substances that will not bond together (oil and water).
- B. The mind of some brethren are likened to such substances:
- C. The cause of this lack of union is confusion:

II. Bible Unity:

- A. The Lord commands unity among brethren (cf. Jn. 17:20-22; I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27; 2:2; 4:2).
- B. Christians are to be bound together as one (Col. 2:2-3) through the truth (Eph. 2:14-18; II Jn. 9-11). This will take effort on our part (it doesn’t just happen) (cf. Eph. 4:3).
- C. Christians are to be of **one** faith (Eph. 4:4).
- D. Christians are to speak with **one** mouth (the same spiritual things) (Rom. 15:5-7 / I Pet. 4:11).
- E. Christians are to be of **one** purpose (Phil. 1:27).
- F. Christians are to be of **one** mind and judgment (I Cor. 1:10).
- G. Christians comprise **one** body (church) (I Cor. 12:12; 27-28; Eph. 4:4).
- H. The Lord condemns unity with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14):

III. Consequences of Spiritual unity:

- A. Fellowship with God and brethren (I Jn. 1:7).
- B. Peace (Phil. 4:9)
- C. Being a part of a family that rejoices when you rejoice and are sad when you are sad (I Cor. 12:25-26), encourages each other (Eph. 4:11ff), and loves each other (Eph. 5:1-2).
- D. Where unity is lacking, Christians may cause the world to speak evil of the Lord and His church (John 17:21).
- E. Beware of faction in the church (I Cor. 11:17-19).

Conclusion:

The picture we have in our mind, after studying the above verses, is a group of people who are in agreement with the goal at hand. As the athletic team is one in their purpose of achieving the championship even so Christians are one at attaining a heavenly home. **Christians** are united in speech, mind, judgment, purpose, and overall faith. Such unity will see us into heaven. The basis of said unity is not athletic playbook or a religious creed but it is the Word of God; i.e., truth (cf. John 17:17; I Cor. 12:12-14, 28; Eph. 4:11-16; II Jn. 9-11). Christian unity must therefore rest in a common understanding and approach to truth.

