

## Don't Swat That Bee



I recently read a little quotation from *Reader's Digest* that said, "It isn't so much how busy you are; but why are you busy. The bee is praised. The mosquito is swatted." That sounds good, but I know a few bees that got swatted as well. In the church, we have some bees and some mosquitoes. Some people work at building the church, while others expect the church to work for them.

One gives honey; the other sucks the life-blood from the body. One group wants to serve, and the other wants to be served. Let's be careful not to swat a bee. Let's protect the bee. We certainly don't want him to become an endangered species! In fact, while we are at it, let's change mosquitoes into bees. That's something we can do that science can't. -- copied

### BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Will Return Next Week)

#### FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	35
Sunday AM Worship	48
Sunday PM Worship	23
Wednesday Bible Study	24
Daily Bible Readers	12
Offering	1325.00
Building Fund	\$90,852

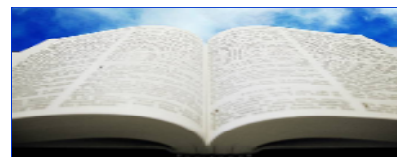
#### Today's Sermons

Morning: "The Pursuit of Happiness" Jim Mulican

Evening: "Traditions" Jim Mulican

For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More

<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



## Back to the Bible

#### Minister:

**Tim Canup**

[preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org](mailto:preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org)

#### Times of Services:

##### Sunday

Bible Study:..... 10:00am

AM Worship:....11:00am

PM Worship:.....6:00pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

##### Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am

"Back to the Bible"

AM 580 WSKS

##### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lectureship

*Thought Provoking*

*Questions From the New*

*Testament – Part 2*

September 23-25, 2011

**We Extend A**

**Warm & Cordial**

**Welcome**

**To All Our Visitors!**

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## RELIGION & A THREE-HOLE PUNCH

Tim Canup



The title of this article may seem a bit strange. What does a three-hole punch have to do with matters of religion? Allow the three-hole punch to serve as an illustration. Let us say you want to file a sheet of paper into a three-ring notebook. In order to do so, you must first correctly punch three holes into the paper. The notebook would represent the chosen of God, or His church. The sheet of paper represents our lives. Now, allow each of the three holes in the punch to represent a certain aspect of religion, the grace of God, faith and law (obedience is implied in this aspect, cf. John 14:15). Just as the paper must be correctly punched to fit into a three-ring binder, so then also, we must place grace, faith and law in their proper prospective to make our lives pleasing to God.

**Continued Inside**

## Those Needing Our Prayers:

*"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).*

Please Pray  
For Our Sick



Susie Bright  
Savannah Bedenbaugh  
Tosha & Kiana Miller  
Leroy Kennell – surgery  
Lisa Arnold (Travel)  
Kim Eldreth  
Jean Miller  
Ron & Kathy McCoy  
Jesse, Debbie & Danielle  
Matthew Winters (new job)

Doris Glass  
Clayton Winters  
Maw-maw & Millers (Travel)  
Eugene Kidder  
Steven, Jessica & Josh Winters  
Frank Zimmerman  
Rethoi Roberts  
Tommy Ham  
Collin & Chad Douglas (travel)  
Fagan Family

Canups (travel)  
Shirley Johnson  
Kim Goodman (Job)  
Ruth Bare  
Jim & Amanda Winters  
Bernice Brewer  
Danny Boone  
Dorothy & Edgar Wilcox  
Rita & Greg Douglas  
Wilcox Family

## announcements

July 3 – Preach & Eat – Meal following Morning services

July 3 – Men's Meeting & Ladies Class – Immediately following evening service

July 11 – Singing @ Margate – 6:30 pm.

Continued from Front Page:

Let us give brief mention to each of these three aspects, beginning with grace. Grace has been defined as “unmerited favor.” God has extended to man His favor by providing man with a way of salvation. But is salvation by grace alone? You cannot put a sheet of paper into a three-ring binder that has been punched with only one hole. Paul said, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11). If salvation is by grace alone, then, according to what Paul said, all men will be saved or God is a respecter of persons. We know that not all men will be saved, for Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21; cf. II Thessalonians 1:7-9). We also know God is not a respecter of persons. Peter learned this just before taking to the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10:34; cf. Deuteronomy 10:17; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9). Salvation has been provided by the grace of God, but salvation is not by grace alone.

Next, consider the aspect of faith. We cannot ignore what is said in Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is **impossible** to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Biblical faith is our

personal belief or conviction, based on evidence (not a leap in the dark), in God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God. Paul said, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Can faith **alone** save us? Not according to the inerrant, inspired Word of God. James said, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:17, 24). James is not referring to works of merit (the deeds done by a person to earn salvation); but rather, he is referring to works of obedience; but obedience to what?

This brings us to the third aspect of religion necessary to man for salvation, and that being law. Paul said, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). The “faith” referred to by Paul is not our personal belief or conviction, but rather the gospel system faith (cf. Acts 6:7 and Jude 3). The gospel contains facts to be believed, such as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:1-4). However, it also contains commands to be obeyed. Paul thanked God that the brethren at Rome had “obeyed from the heart, that **form** of doctrine” (Romans 6:16-18). What was that “form of doctrine”? Earlier in the same chapter (6:1-4) he told them what that form (or pattern) was. Just as Jesus died, was buried and rose by the glory of God, we too must die to our sins (repentance), be buried with Him (baptism), and rise to walk in newness of life (faithful obedience to the commandments of God).

If we remove any of these aspects from God's plan, then, just as the paper will no longer fit into a three-ring binder with only one or two holes, so our lives will not fit into God's scheme of redemption. If we randomly punch holes into the paper, in whatever location we “think” or “feel” is right, then the paper will not fit into the notebook. What we “think” or “feel” may not be according to the plan of the Almighty God (cf. Proverbs 14:12, 3:5-6; Isaiah 55:8-9). We must accept the teachings of the New Testament and never change them in order to fit a preconceived idea.

Apply these principles in the account of Noah. We are told that “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8). Did God's grace alone save him? No! Noah had been given instruction from God (God had spoken to him, cf. Hebrews 1:1-2). Noah had faith in God and he did “according to all that God commanded him...” (Genesis 6:22). Although Noah had faith, it was not faith alone that saved him; however, his faith caused him to obey God's will or law. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...” (Hebrews 11:7). It took all three of these aspects, grace, faith, and law, for Noah to be saved. What will it take for us? God's grace has been extended (John 3:16). Now we must hear His Word and be obedient to the commands found therein.