



Today's Sermons

Morning: David B. Smith

Evening: David B. Smith

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	30
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Offering	\$1633



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ARE WE LETTING THE DENOMINATIONS INFLUENCE US?

Kevin V. Rutherford

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

93.5 FM

We Extend A
Warm &
Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!

The influence of the denominations of men upon the one true church of Christ is evident. For decades ungrounded and unfaithful members of the body have looked to the denominations rather than to the Bible for ideas on how to make the church grow. The most notable denominational influence upon the church today seems to be in the area of worship. God centered, God authorized worship is now being replaced with man-centered, unauthorized entertainment. The denominations have been entertaining for years. Now many members of the body of Christ desire the same.

When we decide to give man the entertainment he desires in worship we anger God. God seeks true worshippers. True worshippers are those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23-24). Those who do otherwise will find that God has not accepted their worship (Mt 15:9). Giving man entertainment rather than worship includes the use of man-made mechanical instruments of music, turning Biblical accounts into weakened and silly stories through drama, adding to and taking away from the Word of God, and showing a grave level of irreverence toward God.

Continued Inside

How to Become a Member of the Church

HEAR the Gospel
• Romans 10:17
• John 8:32

BELIEVE the Gospel
• Hebrews 11:6
• Mark 16:16
• Acts 8:37

REPENT of Sins
• Luke 13:3, 5
• Acts 2:38
• Acts 17:30-31
• 2 Peter 3:9

CONFESS Christ
• Matthew 10:32-33
• Romans 10:9-10
• Acts 8:37

Be BAPTIZED (Immersed)
• Acts 2:38
• 1 Peter 3:21
• Acts 22:16
• Mark 16:16
• Galatians 3:27
• Romans 6:3-5

“And the LORD ADDED to the church daily such as should be saved.”
Acts 2:47

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
Mark 16:15-16

“Buried with Him in baptism . . .”
Colossians 2:12

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
Acts 22:16

1 HEAR Gospel
• Romans 10:17
• John 8:32

2 BELIEVE Gospel
• Hebrews 11:6
• Mark 16:16
• Acts 8:37

3 REPENT of Sins
• Luke 13:3, 5
• Acts 2:38
• Acts 17:30-31
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4 CONFESS Christ
• Matthew 10:32-33
• Romans 10:9-10
• Acts 8:37

5 Be BAPTIZED (Immersed)
• Acts 2:38
• 1 Peter 3:21
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• Mark 16:16
• Galatians 3:27
• Romans 6:3-5

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST
SALVATION IS IN CHRIST

While not all Christians are falling for this foolishness some are unsuspectingly paving the way for their children to go in this direction. We are leaving the next generation open for compromise by failing properly to educate them (Deut 6:6-9; Hos 4:6; 2 Tim 2:15; Eph 4:6). Further, we are setting the stage for future apostasy through the use of entertaining denominationally produced children's videos.

One specific set of children's religious videos that is particularly irreverent is VEGGIE TALES. These videos are very well animated, very colorful, and very entertaining. The issue, of course, is not quality of production but rather the Scriptural nature of the content. The VEGGIE TALES episode entitled, "Where's God When I'm Scared," tells the story of a little boy who is afraid of the dark.

To his rescue comes Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber. These characters proceed to dance and sing to the accompaniment of instruments. They sing, "God is bigger than the boogeyman, and he is watching out for you and me. God is bigger than the boogeyman. He is bigger than Godzilla and the monsters on TV." What's wrong with this? Some folks might suggest that because these videos are for young children they cannot be unscriptural. The problem I have with these videos is that they speak of God in irreverent terms, and they teach our children that it is OK to play on instruments and dance while singing songs about God.

Another problem with the VEGGIE TALES is that they often take factual Biblical accounts and turn them into something foolish. Larry the Cucumber plays Daniel in "Daniel and the Lions' Den." When Daniel (the cucumber) comes out of the den he says to the lions, "See you later, thanks for the pizza." In the episode entitled, "Josh and the Big Wall," Joshua is made out to look like an incompetent fool when he and his Israelite vegetables are bombed by the peas of Jericho with "slushies." After being bombed with "slushies" the fed up Israelite veggies go back to camp and build themselves a missile called a "wallminator." They intend to use this missile until Joshua tells them God wants them to walk around the city. The Jews go back to Jericho to walk around it as God had commanded. When they do so the Jericho peas sing a song in which are found the following words: "Keep walking because you won't, Walk down our wall. It's plain to see, Your brains are very small."

Following the song the Jewish vegetables are again bombarded by "slushies." That night the Jews prepare to rebel against Joshua and use the "wallminator." Jr. Asparagus comes to them and sings them a song encouraging them to do things God's way. The Jews return to Jericho where they are dumped on by a concrete mixer full of "slushies," but on the 7th day the priests play, "When the Saints Go Marching In," and the walls finally fall down.

The Biblical account of historical events surrounding the battle between David and Goliath are also mocked. When "Dave" goes to the front to deliver pizza to his brothers he hears the challenge of the giant pickle. He goes out to fight the giant pickle that has donned boxing shorts and gloves for the fight.

These episodes take inspired accounts given to man by the Holy Spirit and turn them into foolish looking fairy tales acted out by vegetables. The Word of God is mocked, and the spiritual welfare of the children who watch these shows is harmed. When children grow up thinking Bible stories must be told in foolish, flashy, funny, and entertaining ways, what will keep them from bringing some of these kinds of things into the church when they are grown? Who is going to teach them to show respect for God and reverence for His Word? If their parents let them sing the VEGGIE TALES religious songs to the accompaniment of instruments while dancing, they may wonder why they can't do these things when they are older.

Before any of you think I have gone off the deep end in criticizing the VEGGIE TALES let me give an example of the fruit of this kind of thinking. A congregation in our area hosted a ten-week western play in lieu of their Wednesday night Bible study. The play starred the local preacher as the sheriff and was supposed to teach good moral values. There is no difference between that and the VEGGIE TALES. Both are from the denominations of men and neither is from God.

God's methods of instilling moral values and doctrinal truth into the minds of both children and adults include a Christian example, singing Scripturally accurate songs in worship, and direct Bible teaching (Matt 5:16; Eph 5:19; 2 Tim 4:1-4). Westerns won't save souls. VEGGIE TALES won't teach reverence, respect, or the proper way to worship. If we are going to strengthen and solidify the faith of our children we are going to have to get the Bible out and teach them. Good old-fashioned, two thousand year old Bible teaching cannot be replaced by man's innovations (1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Rom 1:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3; Heb 4:12; 1 Cor 1:18-31). So, what are your kids watching on TV?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 17-21 – Gospel Meeting w/ David B. Smith
- May 17 – Preach & Eat
- June 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell