



Today's Sermons

Morning: Did The Bible Really Come From God?
Evening: The Members of Our Bodies

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	24
Sunday AM Worship	35
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Offering	\$1733



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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!**

Ashamed of the Church of Christ

Steve Higginbotham

Statistics tell us that during the 1940's and 1950's, the Lord's church experienced tremendous growth in the United States. In fact, some tell us that the Lord's church was, during that period of time, the fastest growing religious body in America. However, that is no longer true. We are not growing nearly as fast as we were 30 and 40 years ago. And because of this, we have faced a barrage of criticism.

For some time now, brethren have preached sermons, written articles, and published books criticizing every aspect of the church. Such criticisms have been destructive and harmful. While sin and error cannot be allowed to go unchallenged (Jude 3), these criticisms need to be tempered with praise. While I can find some imperfections in the people who make up the church, I can also find many good things. Instead of dwelling on "what's wrong with the church," should we not balance that with "what's right with the church?"

As I see it the criticism over the years has taken its toll. Imagine what would happen if a person, who for 30 years, constantly filled his mind with negative thoughts regarding himself. This is the situation that exists with some of God's people. They have beaten themselves (or allowed others to beat them) down. As a result I believe we are seeing a generation of Christians who are ashamed of their heritage, the church which Jesus built.

Continued Inside

Interesting Facts About 2 Corinthians

AUTHOR: Paul

TIME WRITTEN: 57 A.D. from Ephesus

- POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
- 47th Book in the Bible
 - 8th Book in the New Testament
 - 3rd of 21 Epistle Books (Romans - Jude)
 - 4th of Paul's 13 books
 - 19 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 13
VERSES: 257
WORDS: 6,092

2 CORINTHIANS

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 2 CORINTHIANS:

- Paul established the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey.
- Two of Paul's letters are written to the church at Corinth.
 - 1 Corinthians
 - 2 Corinthians
- After 1 Corinthians had been received the church in Corinth, false teachers had entered in and stirred the people up against Paul. They claimed he was:
 - Fickle
 - Proud
 - Unimpressive in appearance
 - Unqualified as an apostle of Jesus Christ
- Paul penned 2 Corinthians in order to:
 - Express his thanksgiving for the repentant attitude that resulted from their having received 1 Corinthians.
 - To appeal to the rebellious members among them to accept his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- Titus and another brother carried 2 Corinthians to the church at Corinth.

- When Paul made his third trip to Corinth, he wrote the Roman letter to the brethren in Rome.
- 2 Corinthians 8-9 is the longest discussion of the principles and practice of giving found in the New Testament.
- The city of Corinth:
 - After Corinth was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C., the city was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.
 - The capital of Achaia.
 - Its official language was Latin.
 - Its common language was Greek.
 - In Paul's day the population was about 7000,000 people.
 - 33 of the population were slaves.
 - Was filled with shrines and temples.
 - Temple of Aphrodite, located on top of the 1,800 foot tall promontory called the Acrocorinthus, had some 1,000 temple prostitutes.
- To "act like a Corinthian" became a synonym for debauchery and prostitution.



"You are our epistle written in our hearts,
known and read by all men."

2 Corinthians 3:2

More than a few Christians today are ashamed of the Lord's church. They are ashamed of the truth of God's word, they are ashamed of God's scheme of redemption, and they are ashamed of the simplicity which characterizes the organization, work, and worship of the church. In recent times, we have heard brethren apologizing for our stand against the innovation of mechanical instruments in worship, calling it a, "century old mistake."

Just a few years ago, one Christian lady stated that she was embarrassed to be a member of the church of Christ after a congregation received some negative publicity after practicing church discipline as the Bible demands.

In yet another case, a Christian brother apologized for the church's "dogmatic" stand regarding the issue of divorce and remarriage. On and on we could go, illustrating the fact that some Christians are ashamed of Christ and His church. Note however, how this attitude contrasts with the apostle Paul's attitude (Rom. 1:16; Phil. 1:20).

The faithful child of God is not ashamed of the Lord's church He is not ashamed of the commands Christ has left His church to believe, obey, and practice. And he is not made to be ashamed or apologetic when the illuminating light of God's word exposes error and sin in a person's life.

While I would be one of the first to admit that the people who comprise the church of Christ have some problem and have room to mature and be more like Christ, I will also be one of the first to bring to our remembrance the fact that those people who comprise the church have access to the cleansing blood of Christ (I John 1:7).

Mark 8:38, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

A smile cost nothing, yet creates much. It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 14 – Preach & Eat
- June 26 – Family Game Night – begins about 6:00 pm – bring finger food & game
- July 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Why did Paul tell the Corinthians, "I thank God that I baptized none of you"?

Bob Prichard

It seems strange that Paul would tell the Corinthians that he was thankful that he baptized none of them, when he taught more about the importance of baptism than any other New Testament writer. For example, he reminded the Roman Christians of their common experience of baptism into Christ: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

Most apparent contradictions in scripture are easily explained by looking at the context (the surrounding verses). Problems filled the church in Corinth: abuses of the Lord's Supper, abuses of miraculous spiritual gifts, problems concerning marriage, Christians taking one another before the law, and most importantly, divisions within the church. Jesus prayed for the unity of all of His followers: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21). The church in Corinth, however, was dividing itself into sects and denominations.

Paul wrote, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). Division was so severe, however, that some were saying "I am of Paul," and others were saying "and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ." Paul asked, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). The divisions were so severe that they were no longer simply Christians, or followers of Christ, but they were becoming "Paulite Christians," "Apollosite Christians," and "Cephasite Christians." They were not following Jesus as much as they were following the preachers who had taught or baptized them.

It was because of these terrible divisions that Paul said, "I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:14-18). Paul did not want to contribute in any way to the divisions within the Corinthian congregation. He was glad there were very few Corinthians who could claim to be "Paulite Christians," because he had only personally baptized a few. This is likely the reason that Jesus did not personally baptize. "Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples" (John 4:2). Paul preached the whole gospel of Christ, which includes water baptism.