



Today's Sermons

Morning: Some Things Never Change
Afternoon: Studies in Ephesians (Overview)

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	33
Sunday AM Worship	43
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Offering	\$1965



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

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

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

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

THE BIBLE UNDER THE STOOL

Ed Melott

“This obscure family of ours was early in the Reformation, and continued Protestants through the reign of Queen Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble on account of their zeal against popery. They had got an English Bible, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tape under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-great grandfather read it to his family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before.” This story is given by the hand of Benjamin Franklin in his Autobiography.

We live in a time that is unparalleled insofar as access to information and learning. Scholars and philosophers alike would have treasured our libraries and book stores. The internet has moved thousands of instructors into our living rooms and dens to be at our beck and call. The instructions of Aristotle are at our

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fingertips, we may “listen” to Cicero’s masterful orations or be entertained by the works of Shakespeare or follow Don Quixote on one of his journeys. We have no fear that someone will confiscate and burn our books or seize our Bibles. Yet our society is guilty of the crime of neglect and laziness. It is felonious in the way we have abandoned the reading and study of the great thinkers and writers of antiquity. How much more is it a travesty for our Bibles to be left unread? Truly Israel was destroyed for “lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Not because God’s Word was inaccessible but rather rejected (Hosea 4:6b). Spiritual Israel has learned from her ancestors and is today nearly Biblically illiterate. No more is the Lord’s church comprised of Bible toting, Bible quoting people.

We have forgotten the truth described by Henry Van Dyke. He wrote of the influence of the Holy Volume, and recommended to us its contents. He wrote, “It comes into the palace to tell the monarch that he is the servant of the Most High, and into the cottage to assure the peasant that he is the son of God. Children listen to its stories with wonder and delight, and wise men ponder them as parables of life. It has a word of peace for the time of peril, a word or comfort for the day of calamity, a word of light for the hour of darkness.” (Lappin, *Training the Church*, 31).

No longer must we hide our Bibles as did Ben Franklin’s ancestors, or conceal our faith in the Almighty! Let us resolve to read the Bible, study its contents intently, believe its words and practice its principles. A day should not pass in which we have failed to read our Bibles. Lay this article aside; pick up the Oracles of God and allow the Divine Author room in your minds and a place in your hearts. You will soon agree with the Psalmist when he wrote of God’s Words, “More to be desired are they than gold, even much finer than gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10, esv).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 11 – Preach–N–Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Sept 25 – Song Service
- Oct 2 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

God's Must Dos!

Jim Bullington

The Lord had Saul's undivided attention when He said, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9.6b). I guess most every right thinking person would give the Lord their undivided attention if He was talking to them and telling them what they must do. What do you think about that statement?

Cornelius was generally a good man but he was not a Christian. He wasn't a believer because as a Gentile he probably had never been given the opportunity to obey the gospel. However, an angel appeared to him in a vision and told him to send for Peter. The angel said, "He will tell you what you must do." (Acts 10.6b).

Several years later and seven hundred miles to the northwest another Gentile, a jailer in the city of Philippi, met the same man to whom the Lord had said, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Except this time, the roles were somewhat reversed. After seeing the evidence that Paul (formerly know as Saul) was a man sent from God, the jailer asked him and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16.30).

The first time this same question was asked in the Christian era, it was phrased a little differently, but it meant exactly the same thing. About seven weeks had passed since Jesus was crucified and resurrected. The apostle Peter, the same one for whom Cornelius would later send, preached the very first gospel sermon on this particular occasion. It was the day of Pentecost and thousands of Jews were in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast days. Peter delivered a powerful and pointed message convincing the crowd that listened of a horrible fact. Hear his indictment: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2.36). The response from Peter's hearers was quick! "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2.37).

Peter heard the cry of the convicted hearts on Pentecost and responded in this manner: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2.38-39). The question of what shall we do was answered with a response that was to be applicable to everyone, "...even as many as the Lord our God will call."

So back to our question at the beginning – If God were telling a person what he must do, don't you think he would give the Lord his undivided attention? Actually, we asked about every "right thinking person." There is a difference, a big difference. Actually God is speaking to us today just as surely as He did to Saul on the Damascus road; He just speaks through His written word. He is speaking just as surely as Peter was His spokesperson on the day of Pentecost. And one other thing, He still gives the same response to the question, "What must I do?" "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2.38).