

Today's Sermons

Morning: God's Means of Deliverance
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	39
Sunday AM Worship	48
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Wed. Bible Study	31
Offering	\$1632

How Are We Saved?

The Bible Answer

John 3:16 Hebrews 5:9

Provision Made:

- **Blood of Christ** - Col.1:20; 1Pet.1:18ff
- **Shed for all** - Heb.2:9; Rom.6:10
- **Message given** - Titus 2:11-14; 1Pet.1:22ff

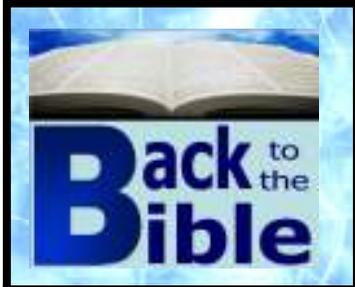
God's Part

Response Necessary by Us:

- **Hear the gospel** - John 6:44-45; Mk.16:15
- **Believe it** - Mk.16:16; John 3:16
- **Repent of sins** - Lk.13:3; Acts 2:38
- **Confess faith** - Rom.10:10
- **Be baptized** - Acts 22:16; Rom.6:3-7

Man's Part

God Has Done His Part - Have You Done Yours??



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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 WSKS
 93.5 FM

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

**IS THE LORD'S CHURCH LOSING ITS
 DISTINCTIVENESS?**
 Roger D. Campbell

About one year before His death, Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). He did just that, purchasing the church with His blood (Acts 20:28). He serves as Head of the church, ruling over it from the Father's right hand (Ephesians 5:23).

The prophet Daniel foretold that the God of heaven would set up a kingdom "*which shall never be destroyed . . . and it shall last forever*" (Daniel 2:44). Before Mary conceived Jesus, the angel Gabriel told her that she would bear a son, call His name "Jesus," He would reign as King, and "*of his kingdom there shall be no end*" (Luke 1:33). The kingdom that Daniel foretold and the kingdom over which the Christ reigns are one and the same. That kingdom is, in fact, the church of the living God.

God's church or kingdom will never be destroyed. That does not mean, though, that individuals and congregations cannot depart from the living God. They can (Hebrews 3:12). It is sad, I would even say frightening, to see some congregations aping the denominations round about them. In such cases, there is

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no line of distinction between the Lord's people and man-made religious groups. Hey, they raise funds by having a fish fry, so why don't we give it a try? They seem to attract more people by emphasizing being a good neighbor and saying less about sin, so maybe that will work for us, too. They have women in leadership and casualized worship, which seems to make them more appealing, so we probably should do the same. On and on the list could go. Yes, in some areas there are congregations of the church that possess the mentality noted above, and, in reality, are not a whole lot different from their religious neighbors.

What to do? We have no desire to be different, just to say that we are different. What we do intend to do is to do things God's way – the Bible way, and by doing so, we will be a different, holy, distinct people. God's thinking is different. God's instructions are different. God's people are different, and that is by divine design. Let me suggest three general areas in which the Lord's church must remain distinctive.

Distinctive Teaching – If the Lord had told us to “just teach or preach something,” then we would be at liberty to propagate the message of our own choosing. God's instructions, however, are clear, extremely clear. Jesus said to preach “the gospel” (Mark 16:15). Timothy was charged to preach “the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). The instruction to Titus was to speak the things that become “sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). There is also the familiar “speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11). These four Bible references do not point to four different messages, but rather show the need to teach and preach one message – God's word. That is what *the church* needs – Bible preaching. That is what *the world* needs to hear – Bible preaching. We have heard enough fluff, enough feel-good stories, enough jokes. The word of God, preacher, the word of God, teacher, that is what we need to hear and heed!

Distinctive Living – The holy God of heaven calls for His people to be holy (1 Peter 1:15,16). Without holiness we will not see Him. The Bible says so (Hebrews 12:14). God's call to come out from among them and be separate (2 Corinthians 6:17) is not a recommendation. It is a command! We must not be lovers of the world (1 John 2:15,16), imitators of the world (Romans 12:1,2), or friends of the world (James 4:4). Our speech and conduct must be distinctive. No doubt it is the case that in some instances distinctive speech and distinctive behavior are lacking because there has been little distinctive teaching on these matters. We must not be afraid to be different. Yea, we ought to tremble at the thought of conforming to the world's norms and being just like those round about us.

Distinctive Discipline – I have in mind the discipline that a local church offers to, yes owes, its members. The discipline process includes preventative measures. We must “command and teach” the things of Jehovah (1 Timothy 4:11). When a member of the local church is acting in an unruly fashion, he/she must be warned (1 Thessalonians 5:14). When the warnings go unheeded, then those in sin stand in need of rebuke (Titus 1:12,13). Jesus said that He rebukes and chastens those whom He loves (Revelation 3:21). When rebukes fall on deaf ears and sincere efforts to restore the erring one(s) have not brought about the desired fruit of repentance (Galatians 6:1,2), then out of love for the Master, love for His flock, and love for His erring disciple, the local church must withdraw from the disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6,14). Where such discipline is non-existent and sinning members just do their own thing and evil goes unchecked, do not expect the church to maintain its distinction from others, because it will not.

Other members and other local churches may lose their distinctive nature. But, let us be resolved that such will not take place in our lives and not in this congregation, not in our lifetime, not on our watch!

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"
(Titus 2:11-14).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 24 – Song Service
- Oct 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Oct 1 – Guest Speaker – Steve Clevenger (from TCSOP&CD)
- Oct 7 – Ladies' Day
- Oct 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Oct 15 – Guest Speaker – Caleb Rutherford (from Warners Chapel)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell