

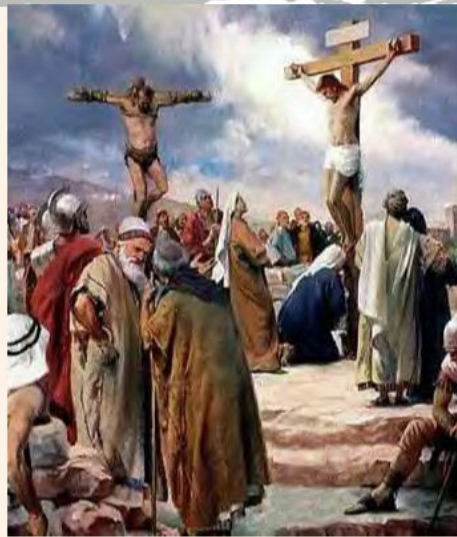
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	18
Sunday AM Worship	33
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1481

## Christ's Last Will & Testament



HE LEFT HIS  
GOSPEL TO THE  
WHOLE WORLD

HE LEFT HIS  
PRESENCE  
ALWAYS WITH  
GOD'S CHILDREN

HE LEFT HIS  
SUPPER TO HIS  
FOLLOWERS

HE LEFT  
HIMSELF AS AN  
EXAMPLE AND  
A SERVANT

HE LEFT HIS  
CLOTHES TO  
THE SOLDIERS

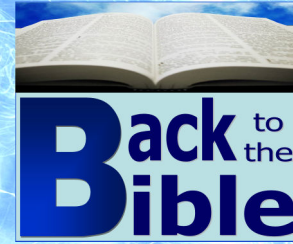
HE LEFT HIS  
PEACE TO HIS  
DISCIPLES

HE LEFT HIS  
PURSE  
TO JUDAS

HE LEFT HIS  
BODY TO JOSEPH  
OF ARIMATHEA

HE LEFT HIS  
MOTHER  
TO JOHN

And to all, he left every opportunity to  
render obedience to His saving gospel!



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**Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am  
AM Worship:...11:00am  
PM Worship:...6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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!**

## ARE WE SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

Roger A. Scully, Jr.

A part of Christianity which exists, which is just as important as any other, is defending the truth. One cannot read the pages of the Bible, Old Testament or New, and not clearly see this idea taught and practiced over and over again. What is sad, however, is that members of the church of Christ rarely practice this command in our day. It seems that many brethren are eager to compromise the truth instead of defend it; that many are eager to let the truth fall than stand and fight for it. What is the end result of this? Just look around you. Liberalism is tearing the church apart. There is not a week that passes that I do not receive a bulletin from some congregation that is advertising its singing group, gymnasium opening, monthly fellowship with denominations, children's church, etc. Where is the authority for these things (Col 3:17)? There is none, yet they are being practiced anyway. What can we do about it? Well, the only thing we can do is "fight the good fight of the faith." We must settle in our minds intellectually that there is an objective truth, and in our hearts with conviction that we have it and are willing to defend it no matter the cost. It has gone this far, no farther!

*Continued Inside*

Paul, when writing to the Philippians stated, "...because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel..." (Phil 1:7). "Defense" is translated from the word apologia, which means a verbal defense given by reasoned argument. "Confirmation" is translated from the word bebaiosis, which means to strengthen. Thus Paul was saying that the Philippians were partakers with him in giving a verbal defense from reasoned argument of gospel truth, and were strengthening the gospel in the process. How is the gospel strengthened? The gospel is strengthened when the truth is taught and error is exposed. Paul wrote to Titus of men who are "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision" (1:10). Paul went on to explain that they "subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not" (v.11). This is not a means whereby the gospel is confirmed, thus Paul said, "whose mouths must be stopped...wherefore rebuke them sharply" (vs.11, 13). By stopping their mouths, which is done by giving a sharp rebuke, the gospel is confirmed, because the truth is placed beside error, and those who are seeking truth will see it and embrace it (Matt 7:7, 8).

In Philippians 1:17 Paul wrote of men who were preaching the gospel for the right reason, knowing that Paul himself was "set for the defense of the gospel." How is it that those who loved the truth, thus preached the truth, knew that Paul was set for the defense of that same truth? They could only know it if Paul had manifest this in his life, which, from the book of Acts, we know he did. Acts 13:45 records that the Jews of Antioch "spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming." How did Paul respond to this? Did he say, "Can't we all just get along?" Did he say, "Well you see it your way and I see it my way, so let's agree to disagree"? NO, NO, NO. The record says, "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold" (v.46). "Waxed bold" is translated from the word parrhesiazomai, which means to speak with confidence and assurance. On another occasion Paul said, "hear ye my defense" (Ac 22:1).

Not only did Paul practice defending the truth, but he also instructed Timothy to "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim 1:3). To "charge" means to command or to give an order. What was Timothy to command? That no other doctrine be taught. In order for Timothy to fulfill the command of Paul he had to (1) know what the truth was (Jn 8:32), and (2) know when error was being taught. Does this sound like what many of our brethren are doing today? No, for many of our brethren today are saying things like: We cannot really know the truth; As long as we all believe in Jesus, it doesn't matter what is being taught. If Timothy would be here today he would most

certainly "charge" them to stop teaching "another gospel, which is not another, but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal 1:6-9).

Paul was not the only apostle "set for the defense of the gospel." The apostle John instructed his readers to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn 4:1). And Jude wrote that Christians should "earnestly contend for the faith," which means to strongly fight for the gospel (Jude 3).

Peter, another apostle of our Lord, instructed those to whom he wrote, by implication all of us, to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:15). "Answer" does not mean to answer a question that has been asked, but it is again the word apologia, meaning to give a verbal defense from reasoned argument. How often is this defense to be given? Always (2 Tim 4:2). To whom? Literally to every man who requires it, or to anyone who challenges it. Notice carefully the context of 1 Peter 3. We are not speaking of people who just have some Bible questions, but of people who "speak evil of you" (v.16). Is it not time that we speak up to those who oppose the truth?

Let us be as bold as Jesus who told the Sadducees, "You do err not knowing the Scriptures" (Matt 22:29). And, as Jesus warned of the false teachers of His day (Matt 16:6-12), so must we do the same in ours, "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom 16:17). We cannot sit idly by (2 Jn 9-11; Rom 1:32).

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*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah" (Psalm 46:1-3).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 30 – Prayer Service
- Nov 6 – Men's Bus. Meeting (Budget) & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Nov 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell