

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



The Passing Of The Miraculous Age

By Mike Riley

Paul once wrote concerning Trophimus: “but Trophimus have I left at Miletus sick” (2 Timothy 4:20). Trophimus was a Gentile convert from Ephesus and a traveling companion of Paul (Acts 20:1-5; Acts 21:29). Paul was a miraculously endowed apostle of Christ, possessing the “signs of an apostle” (2 Corinthians 12:12).

One of those signs was that Paul could raise the dead (Acts 20:8-10). Knowing this fact, let us ask ourselves this obvious question: “If Paul possessed miraculous powers, why did Paul not heal Trophimus?” The Bible provides us with a simple answer.

The purpose of miracles was to “confirm” the inspired preaching of the miraculously endowed preachers of the first century (Mark 16:20; Acts 2:14-22; Hebrews 2:1-4; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5). It was never the design of miraculous powers present in the first century church to heal every one who was sick (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Philippians 2:25-27; 1 Timothy 5:23; 2 Timothy 4:20).

The miraculous age was temporary, passing from the scene with the completion of the written New Testament (see the context of 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, note the word “perfect” in 1 Corinthians 13:10, then note the same word in James 1:25). Also see Jude 1:3 and note the phrase “the faith once for all delivered.”

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
Transformed
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

1 Timothy
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The Book of Acts
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

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Place Stamp Here

Will We Choose Jesus Or Keep Our Options Open?

By Mike Riley

Recently, while waiting in the drive-through line at the local fast food restaurant, my wife and I found ourselves behind an old pickup truck filled with junk. The truck’s tailgate and rear bumper were plastered with several slogan-printed stickers, some too weather-faded to read, others relatively fresh. Looking at the rear of the truck, we noticed the sharp contrast between two bumper stickers we could read. One sticker proclaimed, “Jesus Christ is the Only Way.” The other read, “Beer, Chicks and Pickups.” It was obvious to me that the driver of the pickup was “keeping his options open.”

As odd as the contrast of the messages on those bumper stickers were, this writer wasn’t too surprised. After all, many “religious” folks — even some Christians — attempt a similar dichotomy in their lives. We want to appear religious (at least religious enough to be viewed as such by the world around us). Yet, we also want to immerse ourselves as thoroughly in the habits and consciousness of the world as we can get away with (or believe we can get away with).

Human nature has not changed since the days of Elijah the prophet, who some 2,850 years ago challenged the Israelite nation, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). It wasn’t as though Israel had abandoned the Lord altogether. They called themselves His people (2 Kings 11:17). They exalted His law and His covenant as the stamp of His approval of them above all other people on earth (Exodus 24:1-8). But as Elijah correctly observed, the Israelites were “keeping their options open.” While professing allegiance to the true and living God, they wanted to remain free to enjoy all the carnal benefits of worshiping Baal, the idol of the Canaanites.

The bumper stickers that my wife and I observed on the rear of the pickup carrying junk, illustrate that the Israelite attitude is alive and well today. It is unfortunate that some Christians harbor some measure of that attitude, though we may not be quite so blatant in displaying it. Even though we may call ourselves “Christians,” our secular lives often reflect “Baal-like” life-styles.

The apostle Paul pointed back to the Israelites of Moses’ day and warned the Corinthian brethren, “Do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play” (1 Corinthians 10:7). Paul went on to remind them, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons” (1 Corinthians 10:21). However, in some instances we try to do both, don’t we?

Brethren, we can’t straddle both sides of the spiritual fence, any more than a soldier can change uniforms in the middle of a battle, or a ballplayer on one team can grab his glove and play defense for the opposing club. We must choose a side and accept the consequences, recognizing that the choice we make will necessarily exclude many of the “perceived benefits” of the other side (Hebrews 11:24-26). If we genuinely believe that “Jesus Christ is the only way” (John 14:6; cf. Acts 4:12), we’ll have to forego the carnal pleasures of the world — i.e., the “beer, chicks and pickups.” If, on the other hand, we crave what the world offers, we’ll forfeit any pretense of standing with the Lord’s army.

Our Lord affirmed that, “No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). As our Master, the Lord isn’t interested in disciples who continually look back over their shoulders at the world they should have left behind (Luke 9:62) — after the manner of Lot’s wife (Luke 17:31-33; cf. Genesis 19:26). Let us therefore thoroughly inspect the tailgate of the pickup truck we’re driving through life.

Do our bumper stickers send mixed messages to the world? Do we follow Jesus with our lips, but Satan with our actions? (Matthew 15:7-8; cf. Isaiah 29:13). Will we make a determined choice of “choosing Jesus” and sticking to it (Joshua 24:15), or will we try to “keep our options open?”

Announcements

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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments

Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2022 is in foyer
- April - Rowell
- May - Montgomery
- June -

April Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Lennon Joiner - 27th

Every Sunday Morning
@ 8:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
Scripture Reading - Romans 1:18 - 23
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
Head of Lord’s Table - Rick Carlberg
Assist on Lord’s Table - Mark Potts
Scripture Reading - Mark 15:17 - 26
Closing Prayer - James Johnson

Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3