

ARE YOU CLOSED MINDED?

The way a Christian thinks is important. Paul in Philippians 4:8 reveals to the Christian the kind of things he should think about. He said, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Just as important is how a Christian thinks about other things. That is whether he is narrow or broad minded, open or closed minded, conservative or liberal minded.

As one considers the way a Christian thinks toward other things, he/she realizes that often it depends upon the subject at hand. A Christian ought to be narrow minded toward the religious opinions of men and broad minded toward the truth of God found in His word. Further a Christian ought to be open minded toward the doctrine of Christ and closed minded toward the doctrines of men. Subsequently a Christian ought to be conservative when it comes to a “Thus saith the Lord” and liberal minded when it comes to giving of ourselves and of our means. Certainly, we are not trying to be “wishy washy” in our approach to this subject. We are just trying to help others understand how a Christian ought to think.

Oftentimes when we approach someone about Christ and their soul’s salvation, their response is “I have my own religion!” What is this really saying?

And what are they trying to communicate? In so many cases, they are saying they are not interested in what we have to offer for they are satisfied in their present state and are not open to any further considerations. It is truly sad to see someone lost in error and not open minded enough to a study of the truth. No matter how sad it may be, it is their choice. A choice only they can make.

From another perspective, consider the Christian. A Christian is one who has “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine” (Romans 6:17). He or she was open to the truth, received the truth, and accepted the truth. Thankfully, some continue to receive and accept the word which was planted in the soil of his or her heart. Sadly, however, others are no longer open to the truth. They “were once enlightened... and

have tasted the good word of God” (Hebrews 6:4-5). They have closed their minds to God’s word, and because they have, “it is impossible... to renew them again unto repentance” (Hebrews 6:4,6). Like Israel of old, they have “an evil heart of unbelief because they have been “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13). The exhortation of Hebrews is to help us guard ourselves against this very thing. We must beware and take heed against this ever present danger!

Brethren, the way we think must be a prime and constant consideration. We must always keep it in check lest we fall into condemnation. We need to be aware that closed mindedness toward the Word of God is an ever pressing danger. Open mindedness, however, does not mean that we are to be “children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:14). We need to be open minded like the Bereans who “were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). When they heard teaching, they examined it, and if it was the word in truth, they accepted it. Therefore, let us consider our own state of mind which can be best examined by our reaction to the truth when it is taught. How do you react when the truth is taught?

Chuck Northrop *from Sapulpa Bulletin*

LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE?

At times in life it seems that people are just looking for an excuse to do certain things. Some may be looking for an excuse to do things that are not profitable while others may be looking for an excuse to do things that are unprofitable.

Some people seem to be looking for an excuse to:

Complain — For some it does not take much to get this in motion. They seem ready to fire complaints at the “drop of a hat.” Doubt, ingratitude, envy, and other evils fuel such an attitude (Jude 16).

Have Hurt Feelings — It seems like some people thrive on having their feelings hurt. This gives them an opportunity to

feel like they are justified in avoiding someone, giving them the “cold shoulder”, or giving them “the treatment.” The Bible condemns this attitude (1 Cor. 14:20).

Talk About Someone — Yes, it does seem like some people’s tongues are “loose on both ends.” They simply fail to control their tongue and therefore cause much trouble. The Bible condemns this as well (Lev. 19:16-18).

Stop Attending — Some people seem to be always poised to stop their attendance at any sign of something that they disagree with or that does not go their way. God does not accept these actions (Heb. 10:25).

Not Obey The Gospel — Man has made an art out of these excuses and they are numberless. However, God demands obedience to His Will if one is to have eternal life (Matt. 7:21).

We need to spend our time looking for excuses to do good, such as:

Helping Others — There is always someone who needs help that we can offer. It is an important part of Christianity (Gal. 6:10).

Promoting The Local Work — Satan will make sure that there is more than enough resistance against the good works of any local congregation. We need to spend our time in promoting good works (Tts. 3:8-9).

Forgiveness — This is an area where a great amount of good can be accomplished if it is fulfilled as the scriptures teach. It is a stepping-stone to better things. Forgiveness is essential to the Christian life (Col. 3:12-13).

Teaching Others — Every accountable person that has not obeyed the gospel is lost. There is much to do; there is work on every hand (Matt. 28:18ff).

It can be easy to apply these positive aspects to ourselves and the negative to others. Rather let us take a good long look in the mirror, forgetting others for the time being, and consider what we see in ourselves (Jas. 1:21-25).

Robert L. Moss *from Eastside Edifier*

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Debra Schleif.

Tina Pflugradt is recovering from her surgery at home.

Barbara James continues to recover from her surgery.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Debra Gragg was at the Lake of the Ozarks last Sunday AM. Wilba Hopkins was in Iola, KS visiting with relatives. Trent and Leah Thrasher were in Hawaii last weekend. Tom Tucker has been in Eldon, MO visiting with his relatives for a couple of weeks.

MEETING POTLUCK

Our Potluck Dinner will be held this Sunday, October 26 to coincide with our Gospel Meeting.

LADIES CLASS LUNCHEON

The Ladies Class will provide a luncheon on Wednesday, October 29 following the 10 AM class with brother Shepherd. All are invited to the class and the luncheon.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 48; Sunday PM, 30; Wednesday PM, 32.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING

"Jesus The Way...."

October 26-30, 2008

Darrick Shepherd

Those To Serve

October 26, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER.....Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYERJeff Nemechek

PRESIDE.....John Cody Carter

ASSIST.....George Thomas

ASSIST.....John James

CLOSING PRAYER.....John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYERChris Edwards

CLOSING PRAYER.....Steve Brown

LORD'S SUPPER.....John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 29th

SONG LEADER.....Gospel Meeting

INVITATIONGospel Meeting

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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