

Reminders

5th Annual Ladies' Day Service!

Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Palm Desert Country Club. Theme: *“Grace, Gratitude, Growth”*

Men's Business Meeting Today – 2:00 p.m.!

“Barnabas Group” Meeting!

Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Hudson home.

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small 21 Kelly Peña

January Anniversaries

8 Bob and Debbie Pescador 24 Al and Sara Peña

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher
Carlos Peña

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Are men today receiving instructions from God apart from the Bible?

By Bob Prichard

Many today claim that God has spoken directly to them, or that He speaks to them just as He did to the prophets in days of old. God has not promised to speak to man today, however, except through the Bible, His written word. The Bible places constraints on what the followers of Christ can and should do, so some throw off those constraints by claiming special revelations from God. The Bible, however, was written to provide us God's guidance without need of further special revelation. As Paul told Timothy, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The scriptures are complete, giving us all we need for serving God and man, that the man of God may be perfect, or complete.

If God is going to speak to individuals today directly and personally, apart from His written word, then is there really any need for the Bible? Our knowledge of God, His nature, His plan for redeeming man, and His purpose for mankind are all revealed in scripture. Must we have further revelation from God to know how to please Him? Peter reminds us that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), but if some dedicated Christians today receive special revelations, and some other dedicated Christians do not receive special revelations, does not that make God a respecter of persons?

When we examine the teachings of those claiming to have special revelations from God, it becomes apparent that much of what they teach conflicts not only with the Bible, but also with what other equally sincere people claim God has revealed to them. Paul highlighted the seriousness of teaching that which conflicts with the scripture, by saying, *“though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have*

preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Paul said that if someone, even an angel, preaches a different message than that revealed in scripture, we must reject it.

Paul reminds us, *"God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"* (1 Corinthians 14:33). The modern revelations that men claim today are a tremendous source of confusion in our religious world. One person says God told him one thing, while another claims God told him something the exact opposite of what the first person claims. God's revelation is not contradictory.

Paul said that miraculous revelations of the Holy Spirit would cease. He said that the gift of *"prophecy would fail, the gift of tongues would cease, and the gift of knowledge would vanish away, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away"* (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). That which is perfect is the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25), the completed revelation of God's will in the Bible. It is sufficient to thoroughly furnish us unto good works (2 Timothy 3:17).

Do You Know this Little Boy?

Dear God,

I'm a little boy, just eight years old. I've been doing a lot of thinking lately, and I'm worried. Maybe you can help me with some of these things I don't understand. Of course you know that I have been going to Bible study for a long time, and I've learned to love you and the Bible, and I love my teacher for all she has taught me about you and about Jesus.

It's about Mom and Dad that I have been wondering. I love them both with all my heart, and they love me, I know. And more than any thing, I want to know that they are going to heaven when they die. They want me to go, for they've told me so. They send me to Bible Study every Sunday morning and then they come later to church. But why don't Mom and Dad go to Bible Study, too? And Sunday night, when Johnny and Mary and their Mom and Dad go to church, my mom and dad either stay at home, go to movies, or visit friends. Is this all right, God?

Another thing, in Bible School I have learned how important it is to pray and thank you for our food and everything, but you know I've never heard my dad pray...is this all right, God? And my teacher

says that it is important to study and worship you, and when I do get to go to church on Sunday night or Wednesday night I don't see her. Is this all right, God?

I guess I'm just kinda mixed up 'cause I think Mom and Dad and my teacher are the best in the world. I want to be just like them when I grow up, and I just want to be sure they are doing the right things so we can live with you some day. In Jesus' name,

Your friend, Billy

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ"

1 Corinthians 11:1

Getting the Most out of a Bible Class

Several universities have experimentally demonstrated that we remember only about half of what we hear (some say 10 percent of the sermons). To get more out of Bible classes, remember these suggestions:

- Get a good night's rest on Saturday. Dull minds are found in exhausted bodies. Listening is work. It increases the heart rate, increases blood circulation, and raises the body temperature.
- Get rid of distractions. If easily distracted, move closer to the speaker. Do not play with the cute little child in front of you. If you must be doing something with your hands, take notes.
- Learn to concentrate. You can think four or five times faster than the teacher can speak. Use the extra time to weigh what he says. Review what he has already said; anticipate what he might say next. Did he offer scriptural proof for his point? If you disagree, what arguments does he offer to change your mind?
- Don't allow the mind to wander down a rabbit trail. Let menu-planning, business deals, lesson plans, and fingernail-filing wait.

"For the preaching [teaching] of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing; but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" - 1 Corinthians 1:18 -