

Money Will Not Buy Everything

By James R. Cope

Someone has said, "Money will buy everything on earth but happiness and an entrance into every place except heaven." Truly this is a good thought but is this all that money will not buy?

What of a baby's smile, a sage's wisdom, and a martyr's faith? Can money restore nature's gold to the hoary head, give youthful spring to the old man's step, or imprint God on a calloused heart? Can it turn back the flight of time, remove the present, or penetrate the future? Can it still the troubled heart or change a memory? Not one of these does money control nor can it buy.

A younger man met an octogenarian on a street in a Southern city. Not having seen the older man in several years and pleasantly surprised to see him, he greeted the elderly gentleman cordially and inquired, "How do you feel?" Apparently surprised at the interest the younger man expressed, the old man replied, "Since your manner indicates asking a sincere interest in the state of my health and general welfare I am going to tell you the exact feelings of my heart. The truth is: I am miserable! A miserable old man! And before you ask why I'll tell you why.

When I was a young man I thought that there was only one thing that I wanted in this life. That thing was money. I wanted to be a millionaire. Every waking moment was directed to that end. When I got my first million I wanted the second. I was not satisfied with that and my desire for wealth became such an obsession I lost sight of everything else. I allowed nothing to stand in my way of making money. Now I am an old man. I have a few relatives waiting for me to die so they can get what I have. I am lonesome, my life empty and sad. You know my mistake? Here it is: While I was making money I took no interest in making friends. Now I need friends—true friends. But true friends are not bought with the millions I've made. I am lonely! Miserable!"

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." (1 Timothy 6:6-8)



Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

July Birthdays
3 - Nathan Rouse
6 - Nathan Bradshaw
6 - Katie Carter
11 - Madi White
11 - Chase Winslett
11 - Clay Morris
11 - Hope Walker
14 - Laurel Jerkins
15 - Bradley Seymore
19 - Ben Holcomb
25 - Yvette Rouse
26 - Brandon Hester
28 - Jacob Bradshaw

News and Notes
☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell and Brittany Bagent!
☒ - Hollis Creel, grandfather of Nichole Pender, was buried on Friday.
☒ - There will be a weekly Tuesday night class at Ashton Guy's apartment on Tuesday Nights at 7:30. It will be held at Eagle's Landing Unit 62. Anyone is welcome!
☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan for nine months.
☒ - Yvette's brother, Stephen Guy, will have neck surgery this Wednesday.
☒ - Tonight is singing night!

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Restoring Restoration

By Dee Bowman



Thoughts to Ponder

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ....

(1 Peter 4:11)

"If Christianity would go back to its origins, cleanse itself resolutely from the silt of time, and take its stand with fresh sincerity from the personality and ideals of its founder, who could resist it?"

That's a observation from Will Durant from an article written for the Saturday Evening Post, in August of 1939. Isn't it amazing how things don't change? The statement is as relevant to our needs today as it was when Mr. Durant wrote it. It speaks of restoration. It is a call for restoration.

But that's not the first time a call for restoration has been made. Both the Old and New Testaments are replete with calls for restoration. The Prophet Jeremiah called for a restoration when he said "Thus saith the LORD, 'Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls'" (Jer. 6:16).

Isn't it amazing how things don't change? The people then, much like the people of today, were not

Is our plea to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent" relevant today or should we just abandon it as an old cliché? Just answer yes or no. Then read 1 Peter 4:11. It's about time we decided whether or not the Bible is still relevant and whether or not we want to follow it. It's a matter of life or death, folks.

obliged to listen. "But they said, we will not walk therein."

Man wants his own way. He always has. It seems that no matter how many times he is called back to the truth of God, he can't stay for long. He has to dilute. He has to re-arrange. He has to make alterations. He has to do it his way.

God's truth will not tolerate such mis-management (2 Jn. 9). Whether it is done in some sincere manner or out of gross rebellion, God will not allow man to tamper with His will (Psalm 119:89).

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Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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Evangelist and Editor

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It's hard to believe what's happened to the restoration concept in the past fifty years. I use the figure of fifty years because I've been acquainted with it for about that long. When I was a young man, the restoration motif was alive and well—in fact it was dynamic. People were constantly telling folks about the need to return to the Bible, to “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.” They wanted “book-chapter-and-verse” preaching and would not be satisfied with less. They—most of them at least—could take you to that same book, chapter and verse and show you why they believed what they believed. What has happened, folks? Why am I not hearing those same thoughts expressed?

In many churches of Christ today those slogans, cries for restoration, are not being heard. In fact, in many places they've not been heard in so long a time that many people are not even familiar them. Are they no longer relevant? Do they no longer apply? Are they outmoded and antiquated?

Just how is a thing justified as scriptural today? Well, in many churches there is little effort made to give scriptural reasons for what is being done. And some preachers have gone so far afar from the restoration plea that they will tell you openly, and without shame, “what's the big deal? We're just another denomination anyhow.”

And do you know what's sad? In many cases, that's so. We have screamed out, “give us a king so we can be like the nations round about us!” (1 Sam. 8:5). Churches in many places don't call for Bible authority for what they do (1 Pet. 4:11). They do what they want to do. If they want to have women participate in leadership roles in the worship services, they do it. If they want to have a choir, they do it. If they want a “contemporary service,” one with casual worship, (complete with coffee and donuts), they have it. And

when asked where is the biblical authority for such, their reply is simple: “What's the big deal? We do lots of things for which we have no Bible authority.”

Churches in many places no longer subscribe to the Bible when it comes to the plan of salvation (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3: 21). For instance, many deny that baptism is even essential to salvation. “Churches of Christ say that?” you say. Yes, sir. They will tell you that it's just an outward sign of the salvation that comes when one “accepts the Savior.” And they will tell you that with a degree of ecumenical pride—sometimes, even arrogantly.

Churches in many places are tainted with the seeds of metro-politanism. Local autonomy is breached with impunity. One eldership oversees the work of several different churches. The work done by churches reaches into areas of psychology, home-health care, social and benevolent organizations, much of which is funded by churches without regard to whether or not the Scriptures approve of it. Para-church organizations and colleges and universities are funded by local congregations without consideration for what the Bible says about such matters. It seems that so long as a thing is done in the name of religion, it has God's approval. Pshaw!

Could I just pose a couple or three questions?

Is the Bible the final authority regarding the plan of salvation and the work and worship of the church? Answer yes or no. Then read **Romans 10:1-2 and John 14:6.**

Will we be held accountable for what we teach and practice? Answer yes or no. Then read **Galatians 1:6-9.**

Is our plea to “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent” relevant today or should we just abandon it as an old cliché? Just answer yes or no. Then read 1 **Peter 4:11.**



Source of Wisdom

By James W. Adams

...“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” (Proverbs 29:15)

The wisdom implicit in these words is recognized by mature people. A child “allowed to express himself” without the guidance, instruction, reproof, and correction of his parents will likely be despised for his unruly, and incorrigible character. While reproof and the rod are never pleasant to the recipient, they can be a source of wisdom. Hence the statement, “He who spareth the rod hateth his son.”

It is unfortunate that many in the church do not recognize the value of the rod and reproof in the realm of things spiritual. It is thought to be at variance with the “spirit of Christ” to indulge in reproof or the use of the rod. Whereas the Spirit of God says, “Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not

Preachers are lauded because of their positive preaching in meetings. What is meant by this is not what was formerly meant by it. Then, it meant that a preacher was uncompromising in his setting forth of Bible truth and condemnation of human error. Now, it means that he is inoffensive, that he says nothing that will condemn his neighbor's religious faith and practice.

sons.” (Heb. 12:6-8) The illegitimate child of days gone by was ignored and allowed to grow up without parental reproof or correction. Why? Because he was regarded with greater favor than the legal child? Indeed not! He was not regarded with the love and favor of a legal son. Chastisement was, therefore, an evi-

dence of the father's love. Why then should it be regarded as antagonistic to the spirit of Christ in the church?

We hear much today about “positive preaching.” Preachers are lauded because of their positive preaching in meetings. What is meant by this is not what was formerly meant by it. Then, it meant that a preacher was uncompromising in his setting forth of Bible truth and condemnation of human error. Now, it means that he is inoffensive, that he says nothing that will condemn his neighbor's religious faith and practice. God's great men have all been positive teachers; that is, they have positively set forth divine truth and positively condemned all error.

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