

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Judy

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

What two epistles compare baptism
with a burial?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Ecclesiastes - Ecclesiastes 9:10

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"No One Can Claim to Know the Truth"

Bill Hall

"NO ONE CAN CLAIM TO KNOW THE TRUTH," we are frequently told. And we marvel at the positiveness with which that "truth" is expressed. But, if one cannot know the truth, one cannot be free—for Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

"An arrogant bigot!" you may be thinking. But hear us out. (1) The apostles claimed to have all truth pertaining to spiritual matters (John 16:1–13; 2 Peter 1:3). Were they arrogant in making such claims? No, for they readily admitted that they could not have known truth through their own wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16), but were given truth through the Holy Spirit. (2) The apostles did not hold the truth to themselves, but in keeping with God's plan they delivered it to others, both in spoken word and in writing (1 Corinthians 2:7–13; Ephesians 3:1–5). (3) The apostles affirmed that their readers could understand the truth which they wrote. "When ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in

the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:4). (4) In our New Testaments we have what they had, and we should not be looked upon as arrogant or as bigots when we claim to know what they knew.

The apostles assured their hearers that they could know with certainty. Peter’s listeners on Pentecost could “know assuredly” that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). The Corinthians could “know” that there is a “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1). The Galatians could know “that a man is not justified by the works of the law” (Galatians 2:16). Peter’s readers could know that “prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but ... by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21). No doubt many of these very truths were vigorously debated and vehemently denied in the first century; the waters were likely muddied by sophistry and fallacious reasoning; but the Christians were still assured that they could know the truth on these matters. If they could know the truth on these matters, they could know whatever truth the apostles and other inspired men taught. And so can we.

Instead of commending those who were continually “still studying the issue,” the apostles spoke disparagingly of such. They are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth,” Paul said of certain ones from whom Timothy was to turn away (2 Timothy 3:7).

Let no one think that a knowledge of truth comes easily, however. Knowledge of truth results from a search for truth (Acts 17:11); but search for truth is an outgrowth of love for truth. He who loves truth will search for truth,

and he who searches for truth with an open mind can find truth. But he who does not love truth will “believe a lie” and “be damned” (2 Thessalonians 2:10–12).

“But would you not acknowledge that there are some who claim to know the truth who are in reality self-deceived and in error?” someone might ask. Yes, but does their error necessarily rule out the possibility of another’s having truth? Would one person’s erroneously “knowing” that $2 + 2 = 5$ rule out another person’s truly knowing that $2 + 2 = 4$? Did the Judaizers’ “knowing” that “except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved” (Acts 15:1), rule out Paul’s truly knowing that “a man is not justified by the deeds of the law”? One may obviously think that he knows while another truly knows.

“But I do not believe that you have the truth on several questions,” another may be thinking. But that is not the issue. I may or may not personally have the truth, but the Scriptures sustain that one can know the truth if he knows what the apostles and other inspired men knew.

Let us throw off our excuses. Let us rise above our doubts and defeatist assumptions. And let us open our Bibles with a “desire-to-know” attitude, search for the truth contained therein, and be “not unwise, but understanding what the will of God is” (Ephesians 5:17).

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