

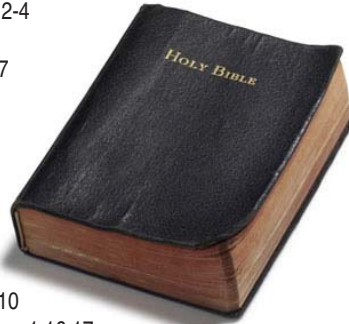
The Lessons of God's Grace

I. "...Denying Ungodliness" (vs. 12).

- A. God is angry with ungodliness. Romans 1:18
- B. Vain babblings increase ungodliness. II Timothy 2:15-18
- C. Ungodly men turn God's grace into licentiousness. Jude 3,4
- D. The fate of the ungodly. Jude 14,15

II. "...And Worldly Lusts" (vs. 12). Luke 22:15 / Colossians 3:1

- A. The world is corrupted through lust. II Peter 1:2-4
- B. Lust is the seed of sin. James 1:13-15
- C. Worldly lusts are passing away. I John 2:15-17



III. "...We Should Live Soberly" (vs. 12).

- A. Sober-mindedness reflects our view of ourselves. Romans 12:3
- B. Sober-mindedness prepares us for Christ's coming. I Thessalonians 5:1-8

IV. "...Righteously" (vs. 12).

- A. Those born of God practice righteousness. I John 2:29
- B. Those who do not practice righteousness are not of God. I John 3:10
- C. Righteousness is known through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16,17

V. "...And Godly in the Present Age" (vs. 12).

- A. Godliness is also known through the gospel of Jesus Christ. II Pet. 1:2,3
- B. Godliness is profitable for all things. I Timothy 4:8
- C. Godliness with contentment is great gain. I Timothy 6:6-8

We do these things... "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (vs. 13).

Faithful Sayings Issue 12.35 August 29, 2010

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

- Let us know if you have any questions.

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ISSUE

14.23

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 3
2012

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope



The Drunk and the Charismatic

By Kyle Pope

In spite of how the title of this article sounds, it is not the set up for some joke that might begin - "Did you hear the one about the..." In fact it was motivated by a very real situation that once happened that reinforced to me vividly the need to rely upon Scripture as our sole source of authority. Years ago, I had to preach in an area that had a very high cost of living. Although I preached full-time, I also had to supplement my income with an outside job. For a number of years this outside job was stocking groceries over-night at a local grocery store.

One night (as happened on occasion) a man came into the store who was drunk. When the man learned I was a preacher, he proceeded to tell me how close he was to the Lord and what a spiritual person he was.

“The Lord meant,” he said, “for us to meet.” He told me how the Lord would “tell him things” and how he often talked to the angel Gabriel. We exchanged some information and I encouraged him to come and worship where I preached sometime (hopefully when he was sober).



Olsen Park church of Christ

In the same store, after the man left, that same night there was another man who worked at the store, with whom I had had numerous conversations. He was (what he himself would call) a “Charismatic,” that is, he believed that miraculous spiritual gifts still continue, and that God directly speaks to people today both verbally and through strong feelings in the heart. I was fairly certain that the Charismatic would doubt the drunk man’s claims to speak with God and angels, so I thought I would take advantage of the opportunity.

First, I told the Charismatic about the encounter with the drunk and what he had said. He laughed and scoffed at the drunk’s claim to speak with God and angels. Then I said to him, “I’m not trying to belittle your views, or trap you, but since you believe that God speaks to you directly, how could anyone ever know that your claims are true and the drunk’s are not?”

He wasn’t offended at all, but began to relate how he too had encountered drunks who talked about God, and how he felt certain that their claims were not valid. What he couldn’t answer was how anyone could be certain that either claim was true or

false. At last he even said, “well a person would have to have a lot of discernment to be able to identify if God really was speaking through a drunk man.”

Knowing that I believe that the Bible teaches that now God speaks to us through His word and not directly, I explained to him that if we rely on the Bible, it is not hard at all to determine what is from God and what is not. He agreed that the Bible is true and gives us all we need, but he continued to argue that God still speaks to people. Somewhat playfully I asked him, “how do you know then that God hasn’t told me to convince you that he doesn’t speak directly anymore?” He laughed and I explained that while God has certainly not given me such direct instructions, indirectly, I do believe that He has told me to do so through the teaching of His word. We spoke a little more then we both went back to work.

This was more than just a cute situation and interesting timing. It illustrated to me so clearly how dangerous it is to rely upon some *inner voice* as our source in matters of wor-

ship to God, or authority for work within the church. God has not placed “the way of man” in man “himself” (Jeremiah 10:23). Through Ezekiel, the Lord rebuked, what He called “foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing” (Ezek. 13:3). The only way that we can know that we are following God’s will and not simply some inclination produced by personal desire, wishful hope, or creative imagination is to rely wholly and solely upon the Bible. Anything else is no more reliable than believing the “Divine Revelation” of a drunk!

