



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

October 18, 2015

Pitting Jesus Against Jesus

Bryan Garlock

It is truly unfortunate that many will pit Jesus against Jesus. We mean that many will take passages of Jesus from the Bible and use them, or misuse them, against Jesus Himself. While the consequences of one choosing to place Jesus “in the ring” with Jesus are many, one of the most obvious conclusions is that he causes Jesus to contradict Himself. Notice the following examples of many.

Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3.16). Before He ascended back into heaven, Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16.16).

Those who refuse to acknowledge the Bible’s teaching on obedience to water baptism for the remission of sins (see Acts 2.38) claim that, “Jesus does not require baptism in John 3.16 and therefore baptism is not required or essential to salvation.” Interestingly when Mark 16.16 is introduced into the discussion to show that Jesus requires more than just a mere belief in Him, the passage is shot down and thrown out the window. You see the words of Jesus in Mark 16.16 do not apply because the words of Jesus in John 3.16 are the apparent standard. If Satan can convince one not to accept Mark 16.16 then those in sin will die in sin.

However if one were to accept the kind of believer found in John 3.16, that is, the kind who is obedient to the commands of the gospel, then Jesus would not have to fight Himself. Remember, there can be lost believers (John 12.42; James 2.19, etc.) and saved believers. Further if one will consider the context, he will notice that Jesus had just taught that to enter the kingdom of heaven one must be “born of water and the Spirit” (v5). Surely Jesus did not teach two different plans of salvation eleven verses apart! Certainly then we can see the consequences of omitting one verse or pitting one verse against another. Consequently either both passages apply or neither does! Therefore when one turns to John 3.16 to disprove Mark 16.16, he has pitted Jesus against Jesus. This is a dishonest man and we ought to feel sorry for him and all those he will mislead.

Another example is seen in Matthew 7.1. Jesus taught, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” While John 3.16 is leading, Matthew 7.1 is close behind in the popularity contest. When one who is spiritual goes to another who is caught in sin with the hopes of bringing them back from the bondage of sin, they are often met with Matthew 7.1. Likewise, when one points out religious error they too are often met with Matthew 7.1. Sadly, those who throw the flag and call Matthew 7.1 are like those who appeal only to John 3.16 for salvation. They overlook the context and the rest of Jesus’ words!

When Jesus said not to judge, He did not condemn all judging. If one were to study the context (vv1-6, 15-20) he would see that Jesus spoke about hypocritical judging.

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church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Oct 18 John 6

Oct 19 Matt 15, Mark 7

Oct 20 Matt 16, Mark 8,
Luke 9:18-27

Oct 21 Matt 17, Mark 9,
Luke 9:28-62

Oct 22 Matt 18

Oct 23 John 7-8

Oct 24 John 9:1-10:21

Thus if we remove the log (sin) from our own eye (life), we can see clearly to remove the speck (sin) from our brother's eye (life). This would fall in line with another set of words found by Jesus: "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment" (John 7.24).

Unfortunately, many do not know that He said we could, and should, judge with "right judgment." Yet when one says, "you have no right to point out my sins because Jesus said not to judge me" he pits Jesus against Jesus and dismisses numerous passages teaching the faithful saint to point out sin (Matt. 18.15; 23; Gal. 6.1; Eph. 5.11)! Indeed if Satan can convince one not to point out sin in the life of others, then those in sin will continue and ultimately, without repentance, die in sin.

While we have only covered two examples, there are many other Scriptures misused by Satan and his followers in an attempt to pit Jesus against Jesus. Remember the words of Christ, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4.4). Let us never fall prey to Satan's schemes to distort the teachings of Christ. BG

Toning It Down by Robert Turner

A "country meeting" had gone exceedingly well, and elders from another community asked the preacher to work with them the following year. He came at the appointed time, and found his reputation had spread, and the building was packed. The elders met him at the car, told him they had never had such a gathering of Methodists, Baptists, and no-church folk, so he must be very careful lest he offend someone with his forthright teaching.

Being young and brash, and having no more tact than to tell the truth, he reminded them of the undiluted lessons that had been given at the neighboring church in the previous year. He said that since he had not been in that section of the state before, the previous year's work must have drawn this year's crowd; and certainly was the reason he had been asked to come. He concluded, "If you expect to hold and convert these people with something other than the kind of preaching that brought them together, I'm afraid you have the wrong man. I'll get back into my car and go home."

With much confusion — "Oh no, you must have misunderstood us" etc., the preacher was persuaded to stay, and the meeting began. The preaching was strong, and seemed to get a little stronger; but the people continued to come, and several were converted.

I do not now believe, nor did I then, that "skinning the sects" is good preaching. Some folks will turn away from straight, plain truth, no matter how fairly we seek to present it. But we are dead wrong in thinking we can convert people to Christ with anything other than the Bible message. It will convict the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; and many won't like that. But we are looking for the "few" who will like it, and will genuinely turn to God.

"Toning it down" will produce only "toned down" members of a "toned down" church. You may keep the money, the politicians, and silk-stocking row; but you will lose the backbone and fiber that is necessary for a church to prevail and please the Lord. And if "members" are not interested in pleasing the Lord and saving souls, why bother with any preaching at all?