
THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

Volume 2, Issue 1

<http://www.magpage.com/~dmills>

May 2001

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
Revelation 22:16

Soul-Winning: A Biblical View

Indeed the first question that we should ask, if we are to discuss the “biblical philosophy” of soul-winning, is whether or not it truly is biblical. One would think a question of this nature would be ridiculous to even pose. And indeed, we will see it is an unnecessary question, for the bible is very clear as to our privileged responsibility to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus. The bible is also very clear as to why, when, how, where and for how long we are to be steadfast in our work for the Lord.

Sadly, many Christians in these last days do not have a heartfelt burden for the lost. Often we think that if through our tithes and offerings we are supporting missionaries, then we are actively involved in soul-winning. While this is important, it surely does not replace our personal responsibilities to witness for Christ Jesus. It should not be used as a crutch for personal, individual soul winning.

When I use the term “soul-winning” I refer to the actions of a Christian preaching Christ’s crucifixion (1 Corinthians 1:23), burial and resurrection. To seek true repentance (Mark 6:12) in the heart of the unbeliever and salvation by the grace (John 1:17) of God through the shed blood at Calvary (Luke 23:33) in the culmination of glorifying Christ Jesus. By no means do I allude to the idea that man can “win” a soul to heaven, that is the work of God alone (Luke 9:56).

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Soul-Winning: A Biblical View
- 1 The Tongue’s Movement: A Biblical View
- 2 Questions
- 4 God Can!
- 4 From the Desk of Paul

The Tongues Movement: A Biblical View

Let me say first, that while I understand that all believers are given biblical spiritual gifts and are to exercise those gifts according to biblical principles and the Holy Spirit’s direction, I cannot recognize and agree with the unscriptural abuses of these gifts. I also cannot identify with the incorrect idea that the possession of certain gifts is an evidence of spirituality.

I do believe that God through the Holy Spirit himself is the source of spiritual gifts and satisfaction rather than some spiritual experience. We should begin with truth from the words of God and not experiences or testimony. John 8:31-32 explains this to us very clearly: “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”. It is not the experiences of something that will set us free, but God’s truth.

Another important point to be made is that when one is born again and receives Christ, it is then that the Holy Spirit indwells them. I believe that it is permanent and it is then that they receive their spiritual gifts, although they may not realize it until later in their Christian maturity. At the point of salvation, “ye are complete in him” (Colossians 2:10). We see also in 1 Corinthians 12:7 that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”. Notice that it “is” given, not that it will be given at a later date.

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise
Eph 1:13*

With that said, What is the biblical view of the tongues movement? The gift of tongues is biblical, that is, they are in the bible. However, as they are currently being used in the Charismatic movement, they are clearly unscriptural.

The definition of a spiritual gift, as defined by Dr. H.L. Willmington, is that “A Spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by Christ through the Holy Spirit to the believer at the moment of his salvation.”¹

The first thing that we should remember is that all that we do and say should glorify the Father, which is in heaven, (*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt 5:16*) this is also the primary purpose of any and all spiritual gifts.

continued on page 3

Why should we be soul-winning? If for no better reason, but because Christ gave his life for us (John 3:16), that we might be saved from eternal separation from Him and the eternal everlasting fire of Hell. However, we have been given a command to go and disciple, instruct, teach and baptize throughout the known world in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). Here, God gives us insight about what he thinks of a soul-winner. John R. Rice writes, in his book Soul Winners Fire, "All other labor is insignificant beside the supreme labor of winning souls." Christ proved by His sacrifice, the worth that He put on a single soul. Anything that important to God, should be top priority for us.

QUESTIONS?

Who is Good ?

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
Romans 3:10

Who has Sinned ?

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Romans 3:23

Where did Sin come From?

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
Romans 5:12

God's Price on Sin:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

Our Way Out

(This is the Good News)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
Romans 10:9

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
Romans 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

**Repent of your SINS against God
and Believe the Gospel!**

When should we begin soul-winning? We have a pretty clear example in John 1:41. Andrew, thought to have probably been the first witness, other than John himself, heard John preaching Christ. The first thing he did was to share the "good news" with his brother Simon. We should begin our witness for Christ immediately upon being born-again into His family. The woman at the well was so excited that she left her waterpot and went into the city to tell the men about Christ. Just like the woman at the well, the joy of receiving Christ as our Lord and Saviour should spark a fire so hot that we are unable to contain ourselves.

How should we witness to the lost? We should go forth weeping and brokenhearted (Psalms 126:6), knowing what lies in wait for them that are lost. Time and time again we see that Jesus "had compassion on" those (Luke 7:13, Matthew 9:36, Mark 1:41, Romans 9:15) around Him. He is gracious, and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy (Psalms 145:8). We need to be continually in prayer, asking God to give us more of these attributes of Himself. We should always speak with grace, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). We should be continually in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) for those we are witnessing to, asking God to soften their heart. We must also remember that it is a spiritual battle that we are fighting, we need to let God do the work. We should be seeking God's power (Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 6:10), knowing that in our own, we will fail. We should be 100 percent dependent upon the Holy Spirit to do a miraculous work in those we are given the privilege of witnessing to. And we should be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Where should we witness to the lost? Simply put: everywhere! As we are going (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19) through our daily routines we should be witnessing through our actions, as well as taking the time to verbally confront those around us with the Gospel message. Our light should be shining before all those we come in contact with, that they may see our good works and Glorify our Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16). This will prompt them to see a difference and be curious as to what we have that is so special. John R. Rice has stated that "The one who wins souls is the one who tries to win souls, the one who talks to sinners, the one who makes it his business." Once again, we should always be about our Father's business (Luke 2:49), and we can not do that sitting still. We must go!

How long should we continue to witness? Until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 6:14). We should be redeeming the time (Colossians 4:5) that the Lord is giving us here. We are ambassadors for heaven, as the Father sent Jesus, he sends us (John 20:21) to gather lost sheep, and to seek those who are lost.

We are to be the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13) Salt is a great preservative, but it also makes one thirsty. Our prayer should be that through our testimony and witness, the Holy Spirit would

continued on page 3

be creating a thirst for Him in those we are witnessing to, that we might be able to share with them how they too can be given the living water.

To sum it up, I quote C.H. Spurgeon as having said, "If ye carry arrows let them be dipped in love; if ye bear a sword let it be the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; but otherwise, be ye everywhere, even among those that would harm you, "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Hebrews) 7:26. "As the sons of God,"."

Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. - Phil 2:14-16

**God's command, "Occupy till I come",
Our Response, "Here am I".**

Tongues - continued from page 1

Secondly, the spiritual gifts that we receive by God through the Holy Spirit are to edify the church: (Ephesians 4:13-16) to perfect, strengthen and mature the body of Christ.

And thirdly, not all gifts are everlasting. We see in 1 Corinthians 13:8 that "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." We see that Charity will never drop away, however prophecies will be entirely unnecessary (Gk: katargeo) and tongues shall completely stop (Gk: pauo) when "that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. v.10" That which is perfect has come, God in the flesh, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In all 33 times that the word tongue or tongues (Gk: glossa) are used in the New Testament, it is referring to a spoken language¹. Another sixteen times we find the Greek word glossa used as the literal tongue and once in Acts as "cloven tongues like as of fire". That's 50 times in all, and not one time in all the Bible does "tongues" mean a heavenly language that only God understands. How then does this movement claim to speak in any thing other than an understandable spoken language? The answer, repeatedly, they claim many times is that they are speaking in the tongues of angels.

We see in the book of Daniel Chapter 8 and verse 13, that he heard the saint speak, and in Chapter 9 and verse 22 he was talking with the angel. The fact is, that each and every time

that an angel has spoken, they did so in the tongue, or language, of the person they were addressing. What then is this language of angels that they are speaking?

I have personally spoken with individuals who claim that although they do not have the gift of speaking in tongues, they do claim to have learned to "pray in tongues" (for self-edification). Charles Caldwell Ryrie¹ has stated that, "uninterpreted tongues, especially a private prayer language, is unfruitful simply because the one praying does not know what he or she is asking for."

*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth,
but my understanding is unfruitful*

1 Corinthians 14:14

It is important to remember that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were clearly given to us, and is not a process of learning or earning. How much clearer can this be made than in Acts 11:16-17, as it is stated that "Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?". God gave the gift to John as he did, or has given to each and every believer. Also we read in Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.". Again, which is "given" to us, and not earned or learned.

As tongues can neither be earned nor learned, it is also important to note that neither can they be asked for. In Acts 2:3-4 we read that, "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Notice that "there appeared unto them" and they were filled. There is no mention of them asking to be filled with the Holy Ghost. They simply "were" filled. Also we see that they "all" were filled, not some, not a few, not many, but all.¹

Another false teaching that is very prevalent today within the Charismatic movement, is the teaching that speaking or praying in tongues is a sign of salvation, or at least a sign of spirituality. This teaching which is also being tied to the baptism by the spirit is simply wrong. Paul says that, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:13". We know that not all the Corinthians spoke in tongues, but we do see here in v.13 that all the believers were baptized.

Tongues - continued on page 4

God Can!

As Christians, we expect those we witness to, too believe that God created everything.

God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

However, many of those same Christians don't believe that the same God can preserve one tiny book **FOREVER.**

Bright and Morning Star Publications

Compliments of: Born2Serve – www.magpage.com/~dmills

Tele/Fax: 309-218-1165

NJ Fax: 856-358-1876

BMS Email: inHisname@post.com

Born2Serve Email: born2serve@hotmail.com

Tongues - continued from page 3

This grace-plus theology is clearly unbiblical. Have they forgotten Ephesians 2:8-9?

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Are spiritual gifts biblical? Yes, indeed they are, as we read in 1 Peter 4:10 that “every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” As long as they are not abused, and as long as the focus is upon Christ and the purpose is according to God’s direction. God had a purpose for everything that He created and He has a purpose for everything he sustains.

We need to always keep in mind that we should begin with God’s Truth, and allow the His Truth to provide and fuel our experiences, and not allow our experiences to define His truth. Curtis Hutson makes it clear as he has stated in his book, *The Tongues Confusion*, that “If one’s experience does not agree with the Bible, the experience is wrong, not the Bible. Experience is not the principle; the Bible is. And Doctrine is not settled by one’s experience but by what the Bible has to say.”¹

And last but not least, we must always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit never takes anyone out of control.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 1 Corinthians 12:2

Once again we see the focus of those involved in this movement being upon the flesh, their general focus being, flesh-satisfaction and self-edification. As the 1922 hymn by H.H. Lemmel says, we should “turn our eyes upon Jesus... and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”¹ As in many of the false teachings and practices we see in these end times and as we’ve seen in the past, it is primary derived from lack of respect and authority for the scriptures.

With the complete and finished work of Christ, the precious blood shed at Calvary, why do “Christians” continue to try and add to the wonderful Grace of Jesus?

That which is perfect has come!

FROM THE DESK OF:

Paul

Re: BEWARE

Namely of:

Phygellus
Hermogenes
Hymenaeus
Philetus
Jannes
Jambres
Demas
Alexander the coppersmith

2 Timothy

Who should we beware of today?