

The Brantley Beacon

"... BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE,"
ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD..."

I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN HOBOKEN, GA
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Having the Mind of a Child By Kevin Strickland

Years ago when learning simple arithmetic, I learned early the value of addition and subtraction. It was learned that adding to

what was already there gave me more than what I started with. If removing some of what was there, there was less. Children very early on are capable of learning this principle. It becomes a part of a foundation that is used through the rest of their physical lives. It is greatly saddening then, that a spiritual life not using this principle will bring ultimate ruin. There is a reason that in the word of God we see our Lord explain that children were to come to him, for such is the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:14/ Mark 10:14/ Luke 18:16).

As children must learn the importance of adding or taking away, so does one who comes to God, spiritually speaking. Hebrews 11:6 tells us *"but without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* The passage in Hebrews is almost a mathematical problem itself. God will not allow one to come to Him if the one only believes he is, and does not continue to seek him. The two have to be together. Although as adults, some may have a hard time having a child's humility to come to God continually, this is something we must bring ourselves to do.

In the heart, children crave truth and want to know and be grounded. It is no wonder, for the psalmist reveals this, *"behold, thou desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).* God,

the Almighty, being our creator, made us to desire it. He wants us to *grope for him, though He be not far from every one of us* (Acts 17:27). It is hard sometimes for us to want truth in our lives, especially if we must give up a false way to serve God, but we must.

The word of God will ground and stabilize any and all who find it. It will not change. It cannot be added and taken away from. This is why it is absolute truth. It really is ourselves who add or take away our lives from it. 2Timothy 2:13 states that if we believe not, *yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself*. We must with the humility of dear children, *desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby* (1 Peter 2:2).

Children desire stability just as adults do. When either do not get stable lives in focus, the remainder of their life is usually is not a good one. Often it is apparent that their time becomes spent in nothing else than trying to fill it with something that will ground them, until they in their hearts become selfish or begin to desire the worldly things. However, *the God of all grace is able tostrengthen, stablish, and settle you.*" (1 Peter 5:10)

So then, coming full circle to where this article started, children have an attitude that allows them to be able to easily pick up with simple reasoning, seek to the absolute, seek to know the truth, and be established. Let those of us who come to God through Christ as His dear children learn the importance of coming to him as a dear child.

**Is That Really True?
By Gardner Hall**

***"The New Testament
actually has very little to
say about congregational
worship or organization!"***

This type of statement is becoming popular in a number of circles and a brief review of it is in order.

1. It Is An Exaggeration. It would be true to say that more of the New Testament is dedicated to expressions of God's love and the need personal holiness and responsibility than to congregational activity. However, to say that the New Testament has "very little" to say about it is an exaggeration. A number of chapters deal directly with congregational worship

and organization: 1 Corinthians 11-14; 1 Timothy (most of the book), good portions of 2 Timothy and Titus and James 2:1-12 are a few sections that come to mind. There are many more indirect references to collective worship and church organization.

2. The Quantity of References Doesn't Necessarily Reflect The Importance of The Matter At Hand. There are very few direct references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament. Yet, who would deny that it is a key element of the Christian's life and his fellowship with others? To say that the Lord's Supper is of little importance because of the paucity of direct references to it would be a major blunder.

3. What Is The Purpose Of This Type Of Statement? Is it repeated to imply that how we organize ourselves in local bodies and how we worship collectively is of little importance? If so, what is wrong with organizing ourselves with presiding bishops, regional bishops, archbishops or even a pope? What would be wrong with holy water, Latin mass, the rosary, etc? If how we worship collectively is of little importance, what about fog machines, laser shows, screaming rock bands and other elements of entertainment-oriented worship? Are we willing to accept all the consequences of implying that church organization and congregational worship are of relatively little importance? Sometimes we just throw out statements without considering the results of taking them to their logical conclusions.

I think I understand some of the concerns of many who make such declarations. Yes, there are some who emphasize external acts of worship and yet seem to show little concern for the inner man. A few are grouchy or just plain mean.

Yes, Pharisaism is a legitimate danger. Yet in our concern for one error, let's not commit another by implying that it doesn't matter so much how we worship collectively or organize ourselves. That's the type of thinking that led to Romanism and modernism. Let's not go down that road again.

**The church of Christ meeting in the
city of Hoboken, Georgia**

5101 Main Street

Hoboken, Georgia

Our Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:30a.m.

Worship 10:30a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00p.m.

**Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities
Song Service**

11-18-2018 - 5:00p.m.

Family Study

11-25-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

In Need of Prayers & Encouragement:

- Thornton Family
- Ezekiel Wildes
- Rex & Frankie Hadley & Anita Young
- Jeannie's brother & sister in-law - Harold and Penny Blitchington
- Jeannie's Uncle - Bob Ross
- Micah's Parents - Perry & Kay Byars
- Micah's Aunt - Thelma Harmon
- Thelma Stewart – Jesup Congregation
- Leanne Wiser – Jennings/Oak Grove
- The Spiritually wayward and weak
- Our Lord's work in Hoboken & Brantley County
- Our fellow Christians around the world
- Our country and it's leaders
- All those traveling during the upcoming holiday