

Light and Life

Eat My Flesh, Drink My Blood

Jesus came to this world to save the lost (Lk 19:10). It is true that the motivation behind Jesus' miracles was compassion, but that is not the reason for His signs and wonders. His miracles served to teach people about God and to provide evidence for the identity of Jesus as the Christ. Truly, there is no miracle greater than the message of the gospel! Problems came when people put more emphasis on the miracle than the lesson it was designed to teach.

Soon after the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus said to the Jews, "You seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled" (Jn 6:26). They followed Jesus because He satisfied their physical hunger; but they missed the point of that meal! "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life" (Jn 6:27).

As the confused Jews tried to make sense of a spiritual conversation with a physical mindset, Jesus told them, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (Jn 6:51, 53).

Jesus had told the Samaritan woman that His water quenched eternal thirst (Jn 4:14). He had used five loaves of bread to feed five thousand people – with twelve baskets left over (Jn 6:13). He had taught and demonstrated that He could provide sustenance beyond what anyone would ever need! And yet people were so focused on the physical blessings, they neglected the spiritual sustenance right before them.

Physical food and drink are life-giving – how much more the sustenance provided by a relationship with our Savior?

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

God's Wisdom, Man's Confusion

Spiritual Confusion- Who/What is *God*? In the rejection of knowledge of the one true God, man's confusion allows him to worship practically anything as 'god.' Isaiah illustrates such futility with a man cutting a tree and with part of it making a fire to warm himself and cook his food, "but with the rest of it he makes a god" and "falls down before it and worships" (44:16-17).

Moral Confusion- Who/What is *Right*? In the rejection of knowledge of the one true God, man's confusion renders him unable to accurately discern right and wrong. Without an absolute standard from the omniscient God, each one winds up doing "what is right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25) which results in anarchy and ultimately destruction (Rom. 10:1-3). Think about it. Can there be any real standard of right and wrong without God?

Gender Confusion- Who/What am *I*? From the very beginning, God created humans as "male and female" (Gen. 1:27). But what happens when mankind rejects this knowledge for his own infernal theories? Confusion results to such a degree that an individual can't even know for sure whether they are male or female, or perhaps another of the purported 200+ genders. Though there is tremendous sympathy toward such miserable confusion, I cannot truly empathize, for the condition is purely resultant from the rejection of objective truth specified by God.

Sexual Confusion- Who/What do *I want*? Confusion multiplies itself. If we reject what is revealed about God, then morals are blurred. And if even who/what I am is in doubt, then how can I possibly determine who/what (gender) I want as a mate? God's omniscient wisdom on this point has been long disclosed by both inspired revelation and nature (Le 18:22, 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27). How did humanity arrive at such a confused acceptance of a practice God detests? It's simple. "They did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer" (Rom. 1:28).

- Philip C. Strong (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



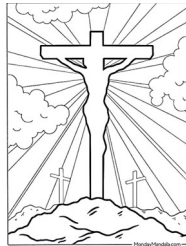
Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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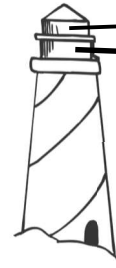
“Oh death, where
is your victory?”
1 Co 15:55

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, J Marshall, T Deen, R Starr

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

OUR SYMPATHY – We extend our sympathy to the families of Sandra Shell & Sandra Montgomery, both of whom recently passed away. Pray for families.

SENTENCE SERMON – “As it relates to grief, the pain now is part of the happiness then – that’s the deal.” – C.S. Lewis

Given Names, Chosen Name

When I first moved to Rogers, it was a challenge to remember so many names. Complicating that challenge were those who shared the same, or similar, names – like the multiple Sandy’s and Sandra’s. And let’s throw in one Saundra just to make it extra interesting!

In recent years, that challenge has been greatly simplified. Four of these sweet ladies have passed on – two within the last week (at the time of this writing). As with the rest of us, every Sandy and Sandra is unique – each with her own personality and strength. Those who are no longer here will be remembered differently, but each is fondly remembered.

God’s Word provides comfort for those who have lost loved ones. It’s not a fantasy comfort – an empty promise. It is a very real hope, grounded in the evidence provided by scripture, written by those who were eyewitnesses of the events – men willing to die for that testimony. Jesus **has** been raised from the dead!

It is **His** resurrection that gives us the hope of **our** resurrection (the thrust of 1 Co 15). And it provides hope in us for **those in Christ** who have gone before us. Regardless of their given name, they chose to wear the name of Christ – and that has made all the difference!

- *WKing*