

We just completed an excellent gospel meeting with bro. **Greg Gwin** of Columbia, Tn. I hope you were able to attend. He did an excellent job of teaching us valuable lessons with a clarity that enabled us all to understand and follow along so easily.

**Quote taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition, College View Church, Columbia, Tn.**

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex, overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.”

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October 2, 2011

### The Singular Nature of God’s Plan to Save Man Jim Stauffer

We live in a world that constantly beats the drum of diversity. We are told there are many gods and they all have the power to grant the promises offered to their followers.

Truth is very elusive in our society. The simple reason is that truth exposes all that opposes it as error. Most people who believe the Bible, believe it is the word of God. Jesus said while speaking to God, His Father, “Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17) This means anything opposed to God’s word (The Bible, the truth) is exposed as error.

Just a quick recap of His history in dealing with man will allow us to recognize the singularity of His message.

He selected one man, Noah to preach righteousness to the world while warning them of the impending destruction of life through the flood. When no one outside Noah’s own family would heed the message, God sent the flood and saved one family in the ark.

Later God selected the earthly lineage of Christ the Savior by promising Abraham that all nations would be blessed in his seed. Paul tells us in Galatians 3:16, that seed would be Christ. The promise of salvation then was through the seed of one man, Abraham and through one descendant of his, Jesus of Nazareth.

When God observed the descendants of Abraham enslaved in Egypt, He chose one man, Moses, to lead them out of Egypt to the promised land, Canaan. Through Moses He delivered one law to one nation of people to be observed until the promise made to Abraham would be fulfilled in Christ.

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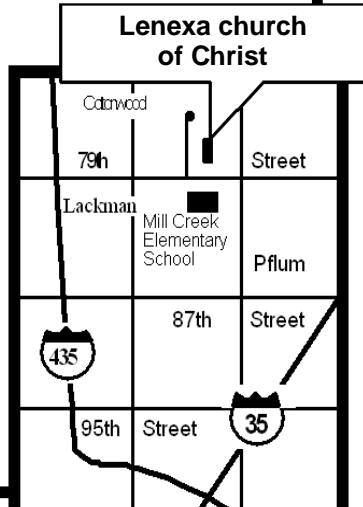
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**Evangelist:**  
Jim Stauffer



**MEETING TIMES**

Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM  
Worship Services 10:20AM & 5:00PM  
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM  
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When it was time for Christ to grace the earth with His presence, God chose one man to pave the way for His ministry. That man, John, the Baptizer, preached a message of repentance to the people of Israel to prepare them for the kingdom to come.

Isn't it interesting how it is always a singular message. Just one path to follow. And each and every time it is God holding up a singular message communicated by one man selected by Him to convey that message to His people.

He then sends His son, His only begotten Son to earth to communicate the one and only message of salvation to mankind. Search the scriptures until you are exhausted and you will never find Jesus or any approved messenger of God sending mixed signals of diverse choices in obedience to Him and His will.

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) Notice He says it is His church personally and the church He owns is singular. Now ask yourself if one church can have multiple ways to enter? Jesus says there are two ways one can travel. He can choose the broad way that leads to destruction and He says many will choose that path. The other way is the way of life and is strait and narrow and few will find it. (Matthew 7:13,14) So, again, we see there is only one way offered to those who would follow the footsteps of the Lord.

The people who choose the strait and narrow gate of Matthew 7 are the same people to whom He authors salvation in Hebrews 5:8,9. There we are told He grants salvation to those who obey Him.

What does it mean to obey Him? It means to search out the commands in scripture and follow them and only them. We cannot decide 1500-2000 years after the death of Christ to begin to institute commands and precepts of our own and divide the church into many different messages or gospels instead of the one gospel Jesus died to enforce. That is what has happened and now everyone wants to cry out diversity. We are all going to heaven but just traveling different roads they tell us. This cannot be so for God and Christ have always delivered one message to their people. And in order to be saved we must obey that one message.

When those who had called for the crucifixion of Jesus realized He was the Christ, they immediately asked what they must do to be saved. (Acts 2:37) They did not begin to imagine or speculate what they could do on their own initiative to please God. They wanted to know what God expected of them for they knew God had always sent a clear and singular message to His people.

They were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins and they did so without reservation. (Acts 2:38-41)

Ask yourself why there are thousands of different religions with different messages of salvation today. The answer is they are the contrivances of men and will

not if followed, be obedience to God. Therefore those who follow those many different paths and messages will not receive the salvation Jesus promised to those who obey His message.

## Beware of Normal

According to a humorous television commercial, one of the first signs of termite infection in your home is that "everything looks perfectly normal." It is their way of convincing us that a lot of damage can be done before you even notice it. The ad might serve to remind us of problems that can occur in our spiritual house if we do not take protective measures. The very foundation can be destroyed while everything on the outside seems to be normal by the standards of our day. When our lives are comfortably blended into the society we live in, when there is nothing unusual about our moral or religious principles, when our priorities are the same as the great majority of our neighbors, then things are dangerously "normal." The problem is that "normal" is a term that is determined by man's standards, and though measuring up to it may provide a degree of comfort here, it falls far short when it comes to laying up treasures in heaven.

Paul warned the Corinthians of some who "measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding." (2 Cor. 10:12.) It is God's yardstick that matters, not that of the "mainstream of society." God has always required His people to be separate (Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:17 - 7:1) not physically withdrawn, but distinct in conversation and conduct, not fashioned according to the world. (Rom. 12:1,2.) It is a sobering Biblical truth that few will be saved; the majority will enter the broad way that leads to destruction. (Matt. 7:13, 14.) It is strange, then, that we should be satisfied with attaining a status accepted by society. What value is it, if we lose our souls?

Friend, if your life seems "normal" enough by man's standards, it may be that your spiritual house is caving in. It will not be shored up by man's money or man's tools, but by the Word which framed the worlds. (Heb. 11:3.) The answer is some honest, objective study of it, for it is the standard which will judge us. (John 12:48.)

**by Larry Walker**

There'll be no micro bursts up in heaven  
The weather there will be calm  
and we'll join with the heavenly chorus  
In singing the 23rd Psalm

Grant Clothier