

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study—at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- Monthly Ladies Class- 3/5/19@7:00 p.m., at Shanna Cline's.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco, Virginia Logan.
- **Limited Health:** Willena Woods, Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Mike Butler is battling lung disease. Virginia Logan is battling heart and lung problems and is being cared for at home. Elbert Logan is recovering from a recent major infection. Joyce Manasco is homebound with knee, lung and heart issues. Tommy Holley is recuperating well from a recent stroke.
- **Others to remember:** Marion Butler, Steve Coburn, Marilyn Lavender, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Elbert Logan, Frank & Joann Butler. Michael Villamor, deployed in the Middle East. Gary Henry is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

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East Columbus Bulletin

It is Important That Our Basic Concepts Be True To the Bible

Ideas have consequences. Our external behavior grows out of our internal thinking — it is our ideas that produce our outward actions. And since that's true, it is necessary for us as Christians to examine our thinking continually. *It is important that our basic concepts be true to the Bible.* If our thinking slips into the realm of erroneous ideas, the problem with that is not merely that we have become believers of false doctrine. Eventually, those untrue concepts will show up in wrongful behavior. As an old-timer put it, "Whatever's down in the well is going to come up in the bucket."

Unlike a physical building whose foundation, once laid, cannot easily be modified, our thinking can be refined as we go along. No matter how careful we've been in the past to make sure our fundamental principles are sound, we can always recheck for accuracy and improve the quality of our foundation. Paul even urged that we periodically examine whether we are "in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). Surely that means we ought to review our most basic concepts from time to time.

The word "principle" carries with it the idea of something being "first." An intellectual principle is an idea that is "first" in the

sense that it is a basic idea out of which many other important considerations grow. The Bible, of course, is full of principles. God intends for us to learn these principles and then have them ready to apply — honestly and conscientiously — when we face specific situations where they are pertinent. Obviously, if we have incorrect principles in our heads, we are going to make many mistakes in the realm of daily living. If our mental and spiritual foundation is not in good shape, the structure of our lives is going to be shaky. But if the beginning ideas are sound, then there's a much better chance the conduct will be as it should.

Many of the divisions that exist in the world of denominational "Christianity" amount to different views as to the basic principles of the Bible. This week, let's take the time to review some of the most fundamental concepts relating to the Bible, God, salvation, and the church. We will do a much better job of dealing with the specific issues in these areas if we have grounded ourselves in sound principles in these areas. Let's always pray and study with a view to having a better, more accurate understanding of God's will for us.

Gary Henry (excerpt from Daily Family Bible Study 404)

The Church in the Apostolic Age is a Pattern for Us Today

So many people these days have the idea that truth can be anything we want it to be that, when it comes to religion, many of these same individuals believe that the church can be anything we want it to be. Many of the fastest growing churches in the country are those that promise, with no apology at all, to be whatever their "customers" desire them to be.

The concept that we ought to follow the New Testament as God's authority for what He wants the church to be has come to

be looked upon as quaint and old-fashioned. It is often classified as the mentality of a bygone era when people were not as spiritually enlightened as we are today. Even among those who in the past have pled for the restoration of New Testament Christianity, there are now many who question whether there is any first-century pattern that we must go by today. Advocating a "new hermeneutic," these re-interpreters of the Scriptures argue that New Testament "truth" is a mostly subjective concept and that we are free to mold the church into whatever we think meets the needs of contemporary culture.

But if the Bible teaches anything it teaches that God's authority must be taken seriously. It is highly presumptuous for us to think we can determine what pleases God by the use of nothing but our own reason. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8,9).

In the Old Testament, when the tabernacle was being constructed Moses was warned by God, "See that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain" (Exo. 25:40). The Hebrew writer says that these things were a "copy and shadow of the heavenly things" (Hb. 8:4-7). If it was necessary to adhere to God's pattern for the "copy and shadow," can we afford to be any less careful with the reality and substance that these shadows were pointing to? Paul warned, "Stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter" (2 Thess. 2:15). ***The church in the apostolic age is a pattern for us today.*** If we want to help our local congregation to be "of Christ," we will have to follow His instructions.

Gary Henry (excerpt from Daily Family Bible Study 405)