What We Value Most

What does your church value most? You can tell what a church values by its property. Look, for example, at how much money a church spends on its fellowship hall, family life center, gymnasium, etc. You can tell what a church values by its practices. Look at all their man-made works, worship performances, etc. You can tell what a church values by its programs. Look at the various social, recreational, educational, political, etc., activities they have going on. You can tell what a church values by its preaching. Much of it is full of entertainment, plays, productions, etc.

We at the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ don't place a great value on these things. We value different things - things that pertain to one's relationship with God and going to heaven.

We value the truth most of all because it is more precious than gold (Psalm 119:172). We value faith most of all because without it we cannot be pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6). We value service to others that makes us great and first in the kingdom (Matthew 20:26-27). We value the souls of all mankind because a soul is worth more than all the world (Matthew 16:26).

A church with these values will grow in number and strength. It will have influence in their community and it will remain faithful to the Lord and be blessed.
- *Chris Reeves* -

Sentence Sermons

- In a heated argument, the best thing to hold is your tongue.

- Don't say "our Father" on Sunday, if you are planning to go around like a spiritual orphan the rest of the week.

- Mankind is lost, but the truth of God's word is not.

- A person's ears are not made to be shut, but a person's mouth is.

- Love is longsuffering and kind.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Is your doctrine biblical? God wants us to have doctrine (teaching) in our lives (sermons, class teaching, personal beliefs, etc.) that is based upon nothing other than the word of God. Isaiah wrote: *"To the law and to the testimony! if they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them"* (Isaiah 8:20) and Peter wrote: *"if any man speaks, speaking as it were oracles of God* (1 Peter 4:11).

Just because a person claims to have a "biblical" doctrine does not make it so (Matthew 4:6; 22:23-28). "Biblical" doctrine is not simply asserted and assumed; it must be also proved. We must test if a person's doctrine is biblical beyond what he is claiming (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1). What questions must be asked to determine whether or not a doctrine for us today is truly biblical? Let's consider four questions.

First, the doctrine must be in the Bible. The doctrine must be true <u>biblically.</u> It should go without saying that if a doctrine is to be "biblical" it must be in the Bible, but many religious doctrines are not even in the Bible. These doctrines are found in the extra-biblical revelations of man and not God (latter-day revelations like the Book of Mormon, creed books, the Apocrypha, the Quran, etc.). Also, many religious doctrines are assumed to be in the Bible, but are not (Eve ate an apple, there were three wise men, etc.). So, start with the basics. See if the doctrine in question is even in the Bible.

Second, the doctrine must fit the context of the Bible. The doctrine must be true <u>contextually.</u> Many religious doctrines are based upon biblical texts that have been taken out of their context (a text taken out of its context is a pretext). Some questions that we need to ask concerning context are these: Is the doctrine found in the Old or New Testament? (We are under the New Testament today, not the old.) Is it a temporary or permanent practice? Is it a first-century custom or a timeless principle? Is it for the apostles only or all Christians? Another way to examine the context of a scripture is to examine what is said above and below the text in question. Ask the who?, what?, when?, where?, why?, and how? of the text in question.

Third, the doctrine must come from within the text of the Bible. The doctrine must be true <u>exegetically.</u> Many religious doctrines are based upon ideas that have been <u>in</u>serted or <u>in</u>terjected <u>into</u> the biblical text (<u>ei</u>segesis) rather than ideas that properly come out of and from the text (<u>ex</u>egesis). Pre-conceived opinions, modern-day cultural norms, religious traditions, or illogical arguments are often read into the text. What preachers say, commentaries, periodicals, etc., are often read into the text.

Fourth, the doctrine must fit the original word meanings in the Bible. The doctrine must be true <u>lexically.</u> Many religious doctrines are based upon false definitions of biblical words (taking Bible words and giving them 21st century meanings). Some people will use a modern English dictionary to define the ancient Greek / Hebrew words used in the Bible. They will focusing on English words in a modern translation or allow their religious tradition to redefine original words to fit their own theological vocabulary.

Friend, before your doctrine can be truly called "biblical" (according to Bible truth and applicable for us today), it must be true biblically, contextually, exegetically, and lexically. We must all give diligence to handle aright the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) and not mishandle the word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2) or twist the scriptures to our own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). - *Chris Reeves*