



BEACON

Vol. LV / No. 23

June 8, 2026

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ

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Drifting Away from the Truth

Mike Demory

Men have drifted so far away from God and His inspired Word (The Bible) that they no longer stop to consider what God has to say about their salvation, worship, or daily living. Society has given God's Word a back seat in their lives. They view it as nothing more than a basic guideline, but that is all; it is no longer authoritative or **the** only standard for religious practice and daily life. God tells us that **His** Gospel is the power to save (Rom. 1:16), not man-made creeds, catechisms, covenants, methods, societies, conventions, or other such inventions of men. God also says that His Word (the Bible) is the only spiritual roadmap that will lead **all** men and women to righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

What type of God are we serving if truth is unknowable? God tells us that we **can** know the truth (John 8:32), yet we live in a world that says, "No we can't!" What is the point of God providing us with His Word (revelation), if it is the case that truth is whatever each person wants it to be? **If** it is true that truth is relative and not absolute, then why is there the need for school testing? Why is there the need for mathematicians to determine the exact lift, weight, and wing size when designing aircraft? The fact of the matter is that those who are pushing the idea that absolute truth is unknowable are the same people who depend upon the certainty that they **can** know that truth is unknowable. Who are we going to listen to, God or men?

Preachers, in many churches today, are pushing the error of Postmodernism. This new ideology is characterized as harboring suspicion of all grand narratives (overarching stories that explain everything else). It disavows the ideas of certainty, unity, truth, and a master plan, while celebrating distrust, ambiguity, and division, which, of course, are the opposite of what God desires for all. This new skepticism has caused many preachers to teach their flocks that Genesis is a myth, that there was no such thing as miracles, the Old Testament is filled with nice stories, but that is all they are, not true history.

If that is the case, then the Bible cannot be trusted. That men and women must trust in themselves, because the God of the Bible is not real. These are the logical implications of Postmodernism. Many churches trust more in their "traditions" than in God's inspired Word, and Postmodernism confirms man's distrust of an old, dusty book that no longer submits to the modern whims of society. However, for those who choose to accept that the Bible is inspired by the God who created the universe and every living thing, we choose not to be found guilty of blasphemy. Every word on every page of all 66 books of the written Word of God (The Bible, Scripture) was given to men chosen by God through the Holy Spirit. God has commanded that His Word is not added to or taken away from (Deu. 4:2; 12:32; Pro. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-20). That being the case, where does anyone

have the audacity to add creed books, confessions, statements of faith, etc., that add doctrines not found in the Bible? If such additions only state what God's Word states, then why the need for duplication?

Jesus and His apostles foretold that men would drift away from God's commands. Many have read about those predictions but refuse to admit they are the ones Jesus was talking about. Yes, you, dear reader, have made the choice to accept man's word rather than God's. None of the churches in our area is authorized by God to exist, other than the church of Christ. It is a sin for them to exist and to teach the false doctrines they advocate. If not, why not? We are ready at any time to hear your arguments for why you would rather believe

The Old Refrain

"They won't miss me!" said the father as he deserted his family and left a broken home with broken lives behind.

"They won't miss me," said the mother as she repeatedly left her children for rounds of teas and parties. The devil did not "miss" the children either.

"They won't miss me," said the policeman as he skipped around on his patrol for a game of poker. But that night the store was robbed.

"They won't miss me," said the man on the assembly line, as he slipped away without permission. But that airplane crashed and killed his brother—for lack of a single nut!

"They won't miss me!" said the sentry as he slipped away from duty. But the enemy surprised and massacred his fellow soldiers that very night.

"They won't miss me!" said the church member as he omitted one Lord's Day and then another, for trivial reasons. Then wondered why he no longer enjoyed a victorious Christian life.

Author Unknown

a lie than the truth (2 The. 2:10-11). And please, should you choose to contact us, please be honest enough to provide your name and address. Hiding behind anonymity only demonstrates that one lacks true conviction in their beliefs and is not willing to engage in dialogue that may lead the conversing parties to the unity that Jesus commanded (John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10).

Truths we **can** know for certain:

1. That God is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6; Psa. 90:2).
2. That Jesus Christ is the Son of God and without faith in Him, no one can be saved (John 20:20-21; 8:24).
3. That Jesus Christ is the **one** and **only** way to God the Father, not the Pope, Martin Luther, Joseph Smith, The Watchtower, or any other man or organization (John 14:6; Acts 4:11-12).
4. That Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind, was buried, rose again the third day, and was seen by multitudes following His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-8).
5. That Christ established **His** church, purchased with His blood (Mat. 16:18; Acts 20:28).
6. That Christ is the only head and foundation of **His** church (Mat. 16:16-18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Col. 1:18).
7. That the saved are added by God to only one church, the church of Christ, and that there is no salvation outside of this one church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:10).
8. That one must confess faith in Christ, repent of their sins, and be immersed in water to obtain salvation (Rom. 10:9-10; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6).
9. That Christ is the author of eternal salvation only to those who **obey** Him (Heb. 5:9; 2 The. 1:6-8).
10. That anyone who does not abide in Christ's doctrine does not have God (2 John 9).
11. That the only church that existed in the New Testament was Christ's church, the church of

- Christ (Acts 2:47; Mat. 16:18; Rom. 16:16).
12. That not one denomination existing today can be found anywhere in the New Testament.
 13. That salvation by faith alone/only is the figment of men's imagination and cannot be logically proved by Scripture.
 14. That miracles have served their purpose and have been done away with (Mark 16:20; 1 Cor. 13:8-10).
 15. That we can all understand the Bible in the same way. However, it does require honesty and an open mind (Luke 8:15; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phi. 3:16).

It is our earnest desire that you will honestly consider and study what has been said. If you disagree with anything, we are always open to study. In fact, we encourage it. Can we not reason together (Isa. 1:18)?

Mexico, MO

“What really matters in this life is learning what God would have us be and then abandoning everything contrary to that model. This is not a process of outward conformity but inward change:

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18).

What, then, is our attitude toward the world around us? We are confronted daily with choices concerning people (friends, enemies, and family), material things, sinful opportunities, employment, recreation, time (past, present, and future), worship, and many others.

What do we choose? Why do we choose it? Are we choosing that which would please God?”

Author Unknown

Ten Reasons Why a Believer Must Be Baptized

Clarence A. Westapher

1. Because baptism is a positive, divine command. Jesus, having all authority, said, “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mat. 28:19).
2. Because Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
3. Because Jesus said, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5—KJV).
4. Because baptism enables us to “put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).
5. Because baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).
6. Because baptism puts one “into Jesus Christ” (Rom. 6:3).
7. Because Peter, under divine inspiration, said to the people, “Repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38). This order has never been repealed.
8. Because baptism “doth now save you” (1 Pet. 3:21).
9. Because in baptism, our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). Leaving a good conscience.
10. Because there is rejoicing in the Lord after baptism (8:39; 16:34).

Deceased

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Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/52MichaelH>

Defender and Beacon

Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

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Beacon

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Patricia Grim

Please Remember

June 21

Birthdays and Anniversaries Get-together will be held in the zone room after the afternoon service.

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Bellview Church of Christ

Bishops: Paul Brantley

Michael Hatcher

Bill Busch

Minister: Tim Cozad