



BEACON

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850-455-7595

God Made It Right

Brad Green

There are so many things that we look upon as being bad. However, things that are bad did not start out that way. “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, ***it was very good***. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day” (Gen. 1:31). God made everything perfect. He made everything “very good.” When we see the pain, suffering, and evil which exists in the world, we should not immediately think that everything is bad. It should, however, remind us that sin will ruin a good thing. Because of sin, God sent Adam

forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life (3:23-24).

What once was enjoyed by man in the beautiful and peaceful garden of Eden had been taken away and replaced by a cursed ground which

in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return (3:17-19).

Though God made everything right, through sin and abuse, man has made it wrong.

God made marriage right, holy, honorable, and undefiled (Heb. 13:4), but man has gotten it wrong. Man ignores God’s law on marriage and divorce (Mat. 19:9). Man defiles the sanctity of the home by condoning homosexuality and “same-sex marriages” (Rom. 1:26-27) which are condemned by God.

God made the government right—to serve and protect its citizens (13:1-7), but man has gotten it wrong. Man wants government to be a benevolence society or a “welfare state” (see 2 The. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8). When once, politicians proclaimed, “ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country,” today’s declaration is, “how much can I get from my country for nothing.” If political liberals in our government get what they say they want, this country will become weak, lazy, totally dependent, and vulnerable to the rest of the world.

God made the church right, pure, and glorious (Eph. 5:25-27), but man gets it wrong. Man wants to attend the *church* of his choice rather than the church which has been bought by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). Man wants to devise his own plans of salvation, creed books, and *church* organization, rather than relying upon the New Testament pattern for the church of Christ. Man wants to add to and take away from the laws of God (Rev. 22:18). Man wants to be entertained rather than assemble to worship the God of Heaven (John 4:24). God says,

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But **in vain they do worship me**, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men (Mat. 15:8-9).

Much of what the religious world puts forth to God is seen by Him as “a **shew** of wisdom in will [or man-made] worship” (Col. 2:23). The church ordained by God is organized Scripturally, wor-

ships only as commanded, and performs only such works as are authorized by God.

It is easy to see that God made everything right and it is man who gets it wrong. Let us always praise God for His goodness and never go beyond His commands, to the left nor to the right, so we may be pleasing to Him.

Lenoir City, TN

The world is full of religion, but Christianity is not so plentiful. Paul was religious as a Jew and a Pharisee, but after the Lord appeared to him, he was convinced he was wrong. He then obeyed the Gospel and became a Christian. He was still religious, for Christianity is a religion. “After the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee” (Acts 26:5). Some religious sects do not even accept Christ as the Son of God. There is no Christianity without Christ. Religion is also used in another sense, which is mentioned in the following passage: “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world” (Jam. 1:27). This religion is what a man does and not what he gets.

E. M. Borden, Deceased

Discipleship

Doug Post

Sometimes we think that when we obeyed the first steps of the Gospel, we have done all that is necessary to attain heaven. Some believe that having obtained membership in the Lord's church, our salvation is certain. However, there is a big difference between becoming a “member of the church” and becoming a disciple. It is discipleship that the Lord wants, and without that, nothing else matters very much. Without discipleship, there is no salvation.

Discipleship was better understood in the first century than it is now. In those days, before the existence of universities and trade schools, if one wanted to become learned in a certain field or skilled at some craft, one found a scholar or master craftsman and became his “disciple.” The disciple often lived with his master. He and the master became intimate friends. The disciple not

only learned the information available from his master, but he also patterned his life after him. He ate and drank with his master. He traveled with him. He emulated his master's words, actions, and attitudes. He tried to become like his master, believing him to be worthy of such imitation. There was a personal relationship of friendship and trust, in which the master shared what he knew with his disciple and the disciple patterned himself after his master.

We ought to seek that kind of relationship with Christ. He wants us to follow Him and learn from Him, to become His friends. He wants us to “walk” with Him, to live with Him day and night, absorbing His skill in living and adopting His way of thinking. He desires that we become so devoted to Him as our Master that it becomes the height of our ambition to be just like Him.

And doing that is a far more personal thing than we often make it out to be. It is more than the dry and dusty obligation of doing what He demands. Instead, it is the privilege of learning life from the Lord of life in a relationship of closest intimacy. Discipleship is not a hoop we have to jump through to gain heaven. Even in the here and now, the requirements of discipleship are a blessing.

Without genuine discipleship, the thing many people call "Christianity" is worthless. Many have thought that having their names on the roll of some faithful congregation assured their entrance into eternal glory. But the Gospel that saves is the Gospel which produces disciples (Mat. 28:19).

Irving, TX

Everyone is invited to attend!
Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
with
Gilbert Gough
October 4–8, 2026

Sunday: 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., & 1:00 P.M.

Monday – Thursday Evenings: 7:00 P.M.

Sunday Bible Class:

Sunday Morning Worship:

Sunday Afternoon Worship:

Monday Evening:

Tuesday Evening:

Wednesday Evening:

Thursday Evening:

Lovest Thou Me?

The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 1)

The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 2)

The Kingdom at War and Peace

Know the Enemy

Encouragement for the Present

Man Under God's Wrath

The Gospel Meeting will be broadcast live on the Internet at:

<http://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html>

Website

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com>

Sermons

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/sermons.html>

Bible Classes

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/classes.html>

Gospel Meeting

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html>

Defender

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/defender.html>

Beacon

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/beacon.html>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/BellviewCoC>

YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
BellviewChurchOfChrist](https://www.youtube.com/c/BellviewChurchOfChrist)

Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

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

Defender and Beacon

Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

bellviewcoc@gmail.com

Beacon

Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road

Pensacola, FL 32526

850-455-7595

Michael Hatcher, Editor

bellviewcoc@gmail.com



Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Phyllis Brantley

Please Remember

September 20

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

September 30

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.

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

Minister: Bill Busch
Tim Cozad