

BEACON

Vol. LV / No. 46 November 16, 2026

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ
4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526
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Three Great "Withouts" of Hebrews

Hebrews 11:6; 9:22; 12:14

Kent Bailey

There are many concepts taught within the Scriptures which are found in a negative category. We find such wording as "thou shalt not" or "put away therefore." Yet, there is also the positive aspect to New Testament Christianity, whether it is found on the divine side, regarding what God has accomplished on our behalf, or the human side with reference to what one is required to do to receive a specific blessing. In our study regarding this subject, we note that New Testament salvation hangs by a cord of three great *withouts* as set forth in Hebrews. It is our purpose to demonstrate their relation to one another.

Without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Heb. 11:6). A proper understanding of the basic definition of faith requires us to understand that such is the conviction that God does exist and is the ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ. We must believe that He is. Faith in the existence of God cannot be substituted by anything else. Every individual who rejects the existence of God is without excuse (Acts 14:14-17; Rom. 1:18-22). Without this faith individuals are atheists and assume three basic fallacies that they cannot overcome:

- That matter is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).
- That the origin of life came from dead matter (Gen. 1:1).
- That all things which exist purely as the result of chance came into being directed by no intelligence (Psa. 14:1).

We also note that God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him (Acts 17:27; Heb. 10:35; 11:26). Seeking God is of crucial importance (Acts 17:24-28). God has never rewarded any individual until that faith expresses itself in visible outward manifestation. While the manifestation of faith varies in the various Biblical covenants, an acceptable faith from humanity unto God has always required one to act in obedience which demonstrates one's faith (Acts 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; Gal. 5:6; Jam. 2:17-26; John 6:27-29). The faith that saves is the faith that obeys (Heb. 11).

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb. 9:22). There is abundant evidence for this fundamental fact (Mat. 26:28; Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:18; Rev. 1:5; 7:13-14; 1 John 1:7; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:38). In every dispensation, God has always mandated a blood requirement (Gen. 4:3-4; Exo. 12:21-23; Heb. 9:11-22). There are various theories regarding the atonement of Christ. I have no theory regarding this atonement. I simply accept

the necessity of such and teach what is revealed within the Word of God.

Without peace and sanctification no one shall see God (Heb. 12:14). By *peace* we refer to the spiritual contentment between oneself and God. Such peace, when it comes from God, also produces positive results between individuals resulting in harmony and accord (Eph. 2:14-17; Mat. 5:9). By *sanctification* we refer to setting apart, consecration, purification (Rom. 6:19-22; 1 The. 4:3, 7; 2 The. 2:13). Christ is the one to whom we are indebted (1 Cor. 1:30-31). Since these three *withouts* are indispensable to salvation, the relationship between the three is obvious.

Calhoun, GA

If You Think…

H. L. Gradowith

If you think you're unloved, if you think no one cares,
If you think you're alone with no help anywhere,
If you think no one's watching the things that you do:
I have Someone I'd like to introduce to you!

CHORUS: His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace
And from all of your sins He will grant full release;
He's the Son of our Father come down from Above,
He is Mercy and Grace, He is Pardon and Love!

If you think this old world has no reason to be,
That man just evolved from a creature in the sea;
If you think you cease to be when life here is through:
I have Someone I'd like to introduce to you!

CHORUS: His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace
And from all of your sins He will grant full release;
He's the Son of our Father come down from Above,
He is Mercy and Grace, He is Pardon and Love!

If you think there's no need to give glory to God,
That we've no need to walk in the steps Jesus trod,
If you think it doesn't matter just what we do:
I have Someone I'd like to introduce to you!

CHORUS: His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace
And from all of your sins He will grant full release;
He's the Son of our Father come down from Above,
He is Mercy and Grace, He is Pardon and Love!

If you think there's no need to steer away from sin,
That at the end of life there is no Crown to win;
That the grave is the end no matter what you do:
I have Someone I'd like to introduce to you!

CHORUS: His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace
And from all of your sins He will grant full release;
He's the Son of our Father come down from Above,
He is Mercy and Grace, He is Pardon and Love!

If you think no one died on that old rugged tree
To pay your debt that you might be made fully free,
If you really believe there's nothing you should do:
I have Someone I'd like to introduce to you!

CHORUS: His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace
And from all of your sins He will grant full release;
He's the Son of our Father come down from Above,
He is Mercy and Grace, He is Pardon and Love!

Deceased

Gospel Meeting with Gilbert Gough

Lessons available on the website

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

How may we eat and drink unworthily? "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27). Then it is a bad thing to eat and drink unworthily, so the question is in place. This does not apply to people who do not eat the Lord's Supper at all. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup" (11:28). Then, we must examine ourselves and see that we are eating it in the right way: "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (11:29). If we eat the Lord's Supper not discerning the Lord's body, we eat damnation to ourselves. "And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation" (11:34).

E. M. Borden, Deceased

Setting the Example

Doug Post

Sometimes we forget that people are watching what we do. The implication is that we forget we are to be examples for the people around us. Someone once said, "No man is so insignificant as to be sure that his example can do no harm." It is incumbent upon all Christians to exemplify Christ, doing and saying things that will make for worthy examples for others to follow.

We do not have to be sinless to provide a helpful pattern for those around us. We just must provide a model of living that lifts others and does not pull them down. One part of a good example is the willingness to correct our mistakes when we become aware that our conduct has not been worthy of imitation.

Absolute sinlessness is not the kind of consistency others expect of us. They will get that only from the Lord. What they do need from us is very practical and possible, even in a fallen world—a consistent willingness to admit our blunders and correct them. In a way, we owe others a godly example. To set the correct pattern is the least we can do.

There is no shortage of folks who will set the wrong example. That will be done no matter what our actions are. But if we do not set the right example, our friends and neighbors may not get it anywhere else. Doesn't everybody deserve to have at least one person doing the right thing before them? Is it fair when we deprive our friends of what may be the only godly example they will have a chance to be exposed to? It is something to think about.

Throughout this week, let us be mindful of our example and look for ways to improve it. If necessary, let us bend over backward not only to do what is strictly and legally right, but also to go beyond that and choose the very best among the permissible alternatives. Being "example conscious" will prompt us to go the extra mile to make sure that others are seeing an unmistakable, unequivocal example of godliness in our lives.

Of course, this will mean having to do some inconvenient things—and it will mean leaving off some things we might like to enjoy if we were the only people in the world. But we are not alone in this world. Others are watching. And that is why Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 5:16).

Irving, TX

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

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Linda Worley
Bill & Pam Busch
Paul Brantley
Nancy Travis
Carla Burleson
Linda Parks

Please Remember

November 29
Fifth Sunday singing and a devotional service at 1:00 pm.

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