

Bellview Lectures

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The Thirty-Seventh Annual Bellview Lectureship took place beginning on June 9 and continuing through June 13. It began in the midst of the floods that took place here in Pensacola. There were a couple of the speakers who had difficulty in their travels. While we had to make one schedule change, everyone did arrive safely. Thus, instead of beginning the lectures with the vital subject of truth and what the Bible says about it, we began with the subject of the Bible's Inspiration. It is important to understand that the Bible not only claims to be from God (other books make such a claim also), it bears all the marks of being God's production and not man's. After the lesson on Bible Inspiration, we had a lesson dealing with false teachers. In this lesson brother John West showed some facts about the nature of false teachers and the danger they bring. He showed that the Bible teaches that we must expose them and stand for the truth. This lesson brought to a close the first day of the lectures. The rains and flooding might have kept some away from the lectures, however they were well attended throughout the lectureship.

On Sunday morning we had our regular Sunday services and at the 9:00 hour brother Gene Hill spoke on the subject of morality. He pointed out there is an absolute standard of morality to which all men are amenable, and that standard is revealed to us in the Bible. At our regular worship hour brother Ken Chumbley spoke on the subject of worship. He defined what constitutes worship and that God is the only proper object of worship. He then set forth the objectives to worship and the relationship of worship to our live (including the false doctrine of all of life except sin is worship) and the guiding principles of worship. After the lunch break brother John West spoke on Bible translations, knowing that we need God's Word in the common vernacular. He taught us about the languages God used to give us His Word and then dealt with the various text types and how they relate to translation. After this lesson, brother Skip Francis spoke on the important subject of the tongue and how that even though it is small it is still consequential. He centered his lesson on James 3 and going through that great passage to show we must learn to use our tongue in the proper way. After the supper break brother Charles Pogue went through a study of the Holy Spirit. He covered seven points regarding the Spirit: He is a person; His work in creation; His work in inspiration, revelation, and confirmation of the truth; His influence in conversion; the baptism of the Spirit; the indwelling of the Spirit; and His influence in the life of the Christian. After this lesson brother Gary Summers presented a lesson on Satan. He looked at the origin of Satan and the various names of Satan as used in the Scriptures. He discussed the

power of Satan and his purposes, then looked at his use of temptations and other techniques he uses to accomplish his purpose. It was then noted his reward of eternal punishment. This brought to a close the first full day of the lectures.

On Monday morning we began with a lesson on truth. This was the lesson originally planned to start the lectureship. Brother David Brown emphasized that we can know the truth and know that we know it. He also covered that fact that simply because we affirm that we can know some things does not mean that we know all things (as some falsely charge). He also noted that we do not have the right to be wrong, and that the truth must be defended. Brother Tim Cozad then led us in a study of great importance—the home. Sadly, there is the need to define what a home is according to God. He also noticed the problems in the home and the responsibilities in the home. Following that study, brother Roelf Ruffner spoke on the subject of the works of the flesh from Galatians 5:19-21 and its four different categories: sins against purity, atheism, disposition, and excess.

Lunch was then provided by the ladies of the Bellview congregation, as they did on Monday through Wednesday. They always do an excellent job in preparing and serving the meals for those attending the lectureship. They are to be commended for a job well done.

After the lunch break brother Charles Pogue spoke on the subject of emotions. Emotions are an important part of Christianity; however, they are not to be the controlling factor of our lives. Our knowledge of God, His Word, what God has done for man, et al., is to control our emotions. After the study on emotions, brother Gene Hill taught about conflict. To listen to some Christians, you would think that conflict of any kind would be sinful, but that is not the case as brother Hill pointed out. However, his lesson centered on some areas where conflict can arise and how to resolve it. After the open forum, we broke for supper.

Monday evening, we had two lessons, the first by brother Wayne Blake dealing with Christian growth. If we are not growing, we are dying. Brother Blake looked at the importance of growth and the hindrances to it. He then gave some practical ways to grow spiritually. After his lesson, brother Dub McClish led us in a study of baptism, dealing specifically with the baptism Jesus commanded in the Great Commission—the only one in force today. With this lesson we concluded the lessons for Monday.

Tuesday began with a study of authority led by brother Ken Chumbley. While many have no respect for authority today, we cannot escape it, and Christianity is the religion of authority. However, he noted there are false standards of authority and noted that the Bible is the only objective standard and how we determine authority along with looking at generic and specific authority in this study. Next brother Don Tarbet led us in a study of the subject of divorce and remarriage. He went back to study the background of the teachings of the

New Testament which is Deuteronomy 24. He showed the various views regarding this passage and the errors of those views and the view he believes to be correct. After this study, brother David Brown led us in a study of love and the true meaning of love as is seen in the Bible.

After the lunch break brother Lynn Parker taught about the Christian's fruit. Not only did he show that God demands that we bear fruit, he led the study to study the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. After this we had a study on the subject of hate led by brother Tim Cozad. He looked at the Biblical definition of hate and how we are to hate the sin but love the sinner. Then he asked the important question if we are willing to be hated by the world. There is an added question that must be asked today and which brother Cozad dealt with: are we willing to be hated by brethren.

After the supper break, we came back to hear two lessons, the first was a study of modesty by brother John Rose. He went back to a study of the word and its etymology to show us what modesty is about. Then brother Skip Francis presented a lesson on salvation showing us the need for salvation and God's love for man in the offer of salvation to man. Thus brought to a close another wonderful day of study from God's Word.

Wednesday was the final day of the lectureship and we began with a study of the second coming presented by brother Dub McClish. He considered the conditions of man when Christ returns and the events that will take place at His return. Brother Wayne Blake then preached about God the Father. He noted that the Father is our Creator and thus loves mankind. The Father is a giver of perfect gifts and has a special love for those who obey Him. The last lesson that morning dealt with the sin of drinking alcohol presented by brother Don Tarbet. He studied specifically about John 2 and proved that what Jesus made was unfermented grape juice and was not alcoholic. He also considered *wine* in connection with the Lord's Supper to show that it is grape juice. He also studied several other passages (Eph. 5:18; 1 Pet. 4:4) before considering the passages dealing with the leadership of the church.

After eating lunch together, we came back for a study of the covenants preached by brother John Rose. He looked at the word itself and then the elements that make up a covenant: the parties making up the covenant, the law of the covenant, and the sign or token of the covenant. He then went through several Bible examples showing these three aspects of covenants. After this study, brother Roelf Ruffner taught a lesson on Christ (we had lessons dealing with each one of the Godhead). After considering that He is God in the flesh, brother Ruffner showed that He is the Son of the Living God, our Savior who lived a perfect

life and that He is coming again. After the final open forum of the week, we broke for supper.

The last two lessons of the week dealt with man's eternal destiny. Brother Gary Summers preached about hell and its reality. He gave a vivid description of hell before dealing with God's love and justice. He also let us know who would be the inhabitants of hell. The lectureship concluded with the lesson on heaven presented by brother Lynn Parker. He let us know that heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. He discussed how that heaven is our real home and what it means to us. It is also a place of rest and eternal happiness along with being a place for the victorious. What a beautiful picture was presented to us as we concluded this wonderful study of "What the Bible Says About:" series. The book, containing more information than the speakers were able to cover in their oral lessons, is only \$11.00 plus shipping and handling (see page 8 for ordering information).

We certainly express appreciation to all those who worked so hard to make the lectureship a success. While the weather presented a few problems to start the lectureship, everything ran very smoothly. The lessons presented were of excellent quality and greatly appreciated by those in attendance. All those in attendance also enjoyed the fellowship of faithful brethren. We appreciate the elders of the Bellview congregation (Paul Brantley and Fred Stancliff) for their foresight in having these lectureships through the years. The elders have decided to have the lectureship next year. There will be a small change in that we will begin on Friday night instead of Saturday night. The date will be: June 7, 2013 and will continue through Tuesday June 11, 2013. The theme will be: "Innovations." Why not start making plans now to attend.