

LIFTING UP CHRIST (1)

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ,” wrote to “the saints” which were “at Ephesus” and to “the faithful in Christ Jesus” the following words: “Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.” (Eph. 1:20-23) Yet, despite his glorified place, men continue to tread “underfoot the Son of God” and “put him to an open shame.” Too many in our day have placed the honorable Christ with the common, mundane and ordinary. There needs to be a separation of “the precious from the vile” (Jer. 15:19), and people still need to be taught “the difference between the holy and profane.” (Ezek. 44:23.) This can be done by lifting up the Christ in a number of ways.

Lifting up Christ means to elevate the church to the highest position. It was predicted to begin in an exalted position. Isaiah, the Messianic prophet, wrote, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come, ye, and let us to up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Isa. 2:2-3.) Even though it is literally so that the church began in Jerusalem, which is 2,600 feet above sea level, the prophet has in mind more than the topography of the land. The church began “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named.” (Eph. 1:21.)

Though the church began exalted and glorious, man has tried to bring it down. This is attempted by the false teacher who says, “It doesn’t matter in which church you are a

member as long as you believe in Jesus.” But the church cannot be separated from Christ. To do so would be to behead the church, since Christ is its head. Paul says plainly, “Christ is the head of his body, the church:....” (Col. 1:18; see also Eph. 1:22-23.) Any attempt to take the church from Christ is an underhanded endeavor to take the kingdom from the King. (I Tim. 6:15; Acts 2:30, 33; Col. 1:13.) To steal the kingdom is to dethrone the King; but “he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” (I Cor. 15:25.) Therefore, such a rebellion shall not succeed.

To ridicule and deride the church is to count or consider “the blood of the covenant...an unholy thing.” It is in essence saying, “The shedding of his precious blood is of no value; it is worthless.” This has to be the case, because Jesus shed his blood for the church. (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1:18, 19.) If his church is of no value, then neither is his blood with which he purchased it. But the church is valuable and his blood is precious. Therefore, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (U Cor. 9:15.)

The church is to be exalted throughout the ages: “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.” (Eph. 3:21.) “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27.)

Lifting up Christ means to hold high his word. The sweet singer of Israel wrote, “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” (Psa. 138:2.) Though the word of the Lord endureth forever, Satan and his servants are untiring in their attempts to steal our spiritual food, disarm the soldiers of the cross, put out the light from our path, remove the seed from the soil, quench the fire, and seize the hammer from our hands. (I Pet. 2:2; Eph. 6:10-17; Psa. 119:105; Mark. 4:15; Jer. 23:29.) But we must be “set for the defense of the gospel,” remembering, “For ever, O Lord

thy word is settled in heaven,” and that one day we shall all be judged by the book. (John 12:48; Rev. 20:11-15.)

The devices of Satan, in order to remove that which is so precious to the Lord’s people, are many. Those who teach the direct operation of the Holy Spirit (in sanctification and/or edification) are denying the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. “All scripture is given for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Tim. 3:16-17.) Those who borrow Jehoiakim’s penknife by the encouragement of modern translations are simply instruments in the hands of a devising devil. (Jer. 36:22-25; Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19.)

The deist does not uphold the word of God. Thus, Christ is not exalted by the deist. He counts the Bible as insignificant and unnecessary. H. S. Miller’s *General Biblical Introduction* says:

The **Deist** admits the existence of one personal God, but denies the fact of divine revelation. He believes that the light of nature and the light of reason are sufficient guides for man’s faith and practice. He believes in natural, but not in revealed religion; he has no use for the Bible nor for Christ. (P. 4.)

Though we can learn some things from nature (Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1:20), we cannot learn enough to know God’s will for us in reference to sin and salvation.

Men who have “high regard” for Christ but little respect for his word, in truth, have neither regard nor respect for either. In order to lift up Christ, we must elevate his word as well. Does a child honor his father by willful disregard for his father’s word? Friends, let us elevate the Bible; and in doing so, we will lift up the Christ. *(To be continued)*

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

BIRTHDAY

Trent Thrasher, 05-19.

ILL

Sunday: Lauren and Lindsey Brown; Chris Edwards (PM); Millie Robertson; Allen and Clara Scott.

Wednesday: Janice Carter; Allen and Clara Scott.

Allen Scott was admitted to Room 420 at the Olathe Medical Center on Friday.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Louise Dodson and family in the passing of her mother, Glennis Foust. Funeral services will be held at 1 PM on Monday, May 19 at the Holman Howe Funeral Home in Lebanon, MO.

Our sympathy is also extended to Francis Thrasher in the passing of her brother, Charles Thrasher. Funeral services were held on May 12, in Kansas City, KS.

Our sympathy is also extended to the Morton family in the passing of Sharon Morton. Funeral services will be held at 10 AM on Tuesday, May 20 at the Petersen Funeral Home in Newton, KS.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations are extended to John Cody Carter on his graduation from Olathe South High School. We pray for him the very best as he goes forth in life!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 30; Wednesday PM, 27.

Those To Serve

May 18, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Steve Brown
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 21st

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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