

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application



The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

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Is His Sacrifice Necessary?

A survey by Ellison Research in Phoenix, AZ, finds 87% of U.S. adults believe in the existence of sin, which is defined as “something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective.” However, Americans tend to view sin “not as God views it, but how we view it,” said Ellison president Ron Sellers. “A lot of this is relative.”

David Kinnaman, president of Barna Research, a company in Ventura, CA, that tracks Christian trends, draws a similar conclusion: “People are quick to toe the line on traditional thinking” that there is sin “but interpret that reality in a very personal and self-congratulatory manner” – I have to do what’s best for me; I am not as sinful as most.

Indeed, 65% of U.S. adults think they will go to heaven, but only **0.05%** believe they will go to hell. Popular evangelist Joel Osteen, pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Tex., never mentions sin in his TV sermons or best sellers such as *Your Best Life Now*.

Michael Horton, professor of theology at Westminster Seminary in Escondido, Calif., calls this “moral therapy.” ... “That’s the drift of American preaching today in a lot of churches. People know what sin is; they just don’t believe in it anymore. We mix up happiness and holiness, and God is no longer the reference point.” ... *“If you can solve your problems or sins yourself, what difference does it make that Christ was crucified?”*

DiscipleWorld, “a journal of news, opinion, and mission for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” has a “Question for the month” feature. Readers were asked:

“Do you believe the following statements?”

The Bible is the actual word of God, and it is to be taken literally, word for word.

Yes 9% No 91%

I definitely believe in “the Devil.”

Yes 36% No 64%

Human beings developed from earlier species of animals.

Yes 69% No 31%

Should the church ordain openly gay men and lesbians?

Yes 69% No 31%

The Elder Cares

We often wonder what we can do to bring others to Christ. We have to step up, even if it's out of our comfort zone. We come in contact with people every day. We have countless opportunities to invite someone to share Christ. None of us would be here had not someone spoken up.



Christ came here to be a servant to the glory of the Father. We are told in *2 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV)*

¹¹ Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

And, In *Philippians 2:12-13 (KJV)*

¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Ed Saunders
Elder

Treasurer's Report

See handouts.



Wayne Webb
Treasurer

Thoughts on the Resurrection

The Resurrection is the basis of everything that can legitimately be called "Christian." It is only by the indwelling activity of the risen Lord Jesus that the dynamic life of Christ continues to effect Christianity.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no Christianity.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no gospel.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no spiritual life.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no salvation.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no righteousness, holiness or godliness.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no Christian living.

Apart from the Resurrection there is no hope.

It is imperative that we articulate and proclaim the Resurrection.

“The principles by which Alexander Campbell and his associates lived, appear to me to be indistinguishable from the principles of primitive and apostolic Christianity.”

Dr. F. F. Bruce - (1910-1990)