

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

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'Sola Scriptura' - The Bible Alone

While Islam is becoming more “evangelistic” in the western world, we in christendom are divided into more than 20,000 factions. It's time to read again the statement of Alexander Campbell written in 1835.

“While philosophy, mysticism, and politics drove the parties to every question into antipodal extremes; while justification by metaphysical faith alone; while the forms and ceremonies of all sects begat the “ Spirit alone” in the mind of George Fox; while the Calvinian five points generated the Arminian five points; and while the Westminster Creed, though unsubscribed by its makers, begot a hundred others—not until within the present generation did any sect or party in Christendom unite and build upon the Bible alone.

Since that time, the first effort known to us to abandon the whole controversy about creeds and reformations, and to restore primitive Christianity, or to build alone upon the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself the chief corner-stone, has been made.

Tired of new creeds and new parties in religion, and of the numerous abortive efforts to reform the reformation; convinced from the Holy Scriptures, from observation and experience, that the union of the disciples of Christ is essential to the conversion of the world, and that the correction and improvement of no creed, or partisan establishment in Christendom, could ever become the basis of such a union, communion, and co-operation, as would restore peace to a church militant against itself, or triumph to the common salvation; a few individuals, about the commencement of the present century, began to reflect upon the ways and means to restore primitive Christianity.

This led to a careful, most conscientious, and prayerful examination of the grounds and reasons of the present state of things in all the Protestant sects. On examination of the history of all the platforms and constitutions of all these sects, it appeared evident as mathematical demonstration itself, that neither the Augsburg articles of faith and opinion, nor the Westminster, nor the Wesleyan, nor those of any state creed or dissenting establishment, could ever improve the condition of things, restore union to the church, peace to the world, or success to the gospel of Christ.”

Alexander Campbell, “Preface,” *The Christian System* (1835), p. ix.

What a glorious day it will be when the “evangelical” churches renounce their “faith only” doctrine, obey the Gospel of Christ, and faithfully carry out the great commission, telling people what they must do to be saved, and teaching those who obey the Gospel the things which Christ commanded. I am thankful that Orcutt Christian Church is committed to excellence in communicating Biblical Truth and it's Application.

Elder Ed Saunders

Thoughts on Stewardship

God gives us everything we have, and we are entrusted with all we have as good stewards. God's grace allows us to obtain what we have. Yes, some are blessed more than others, but all of us are required to be good stewards. We do this in our giving to support his causes, using everything we have, **as if it's only loaned to us.**



God's word says to bring in the tithes and offerings:

Malachi 3:10 (MSG)

¹⁰ Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple.

This is how we keep things going in his kingdom. Everything we have is entrusted to us. We can give a drink of water in his name, or something to those in need. All are forms of stewardship. Using the blessings we have as stewards of his possessions. God has entrusted us with so much.

Luke 18:9-14 (KJV)

⁹ And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (KJV)

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. ⁸ And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. ⁹ Use hospitality one to another without grudging. ¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.