



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

APRIL 1, 2007

GOD IS NOT MOCKED

The world is filled with people that defiantly thumb their noses and bow their necks at the Almighty God of the universe. I suppose that many of them have failed to read or choose not to believe the biblical accounts of men who possessed a similar attitude and the Lord demonstrated to them that God was not to be trifled with.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, ruler of the strongest nation on the planet developed of case of the big head as he proclaimed *“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”* (Daniel 4:30). No sooner had

the words fell from his arrogant mouth that God smote Nebuchadnezzar with the humble stick. *“That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws”* (Daniel 4:33). On this occasion God allowed the Babylonian king time to recognize the error of his ways and sing a different tune. *“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation* (Daniel 4:34).

Another blasphemer of God and his people wasn’t quite so lucky. Goliath would boast daily of his power and might “and the Philistine said, *“I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together”* (1 Samuel 17:10). Yet all it took was God to use a shepherd boy and a slingshot to hand Goliath his head and put the Philistine army in flight.

Yes, these are a couple of instances insolent atheists fail to recognize as truth and repeat the audacious behavior. *“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God”*” (Psalm 14:1a). I came across such a story that demonstrates the point.

A certain European countess, who lived over a hundred years ago, was a noted unbeliever, and was especially opposed to the doctrine of the resurrection. This lady

died when about thirty years of age. Before her death she gave orders that her grave should be covered with a slab of granite; that around it should be placed square blocks of stone, and that the corners should be fastened to each other and to the granite slab by heavy iron clamps. Upon the covering this inscription was placed: *“THIS BURIAL PLACE PURCHASED TO ALL ETERNITY! MUST NEVER BE OPENED!”* All that human power could do to prevent any change in that grave was done. But a little birch tree seed sprouted, and the root found its way between the side stone and the upper slab and grew there. Slowly but steadily it forced its way until the iron clamps were torn asunder, the granite lid was raised, and it is now resting upon the trunk of the birch tree, which is large and flourishing.

This ridiculer of the resurrection found that God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7). This lady of royalty obviously failed in a similar way to that of the Romans concerning the burial of Jesus of Nazareth. They knew of the claims by this so-called Messiah, that He would be raised from the dead, so they attempted to hinder any chance of this happening. *“So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard”* (Matthew 27:66). But God had other plans and would not be deterred by such miniscule efforts by a few Roman

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Oak Grove

Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehnt
Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

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soldiers. *"And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it" (Matthew 28:2).* If God said that His Son would rise from the dead on the third day (*Matthew 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, Mark 9:31, 10:34, Luke 13:32 & 18:33*) that is exactly what was going to happen, and it did!

No matter what a person chooses to believe or if we try to hide ourselves from the presence of God, His truth will prevail. All men are destined to die (*Hebrews 9:27*) with a few exceptions like Elijah (*2 Kings 2:11*) and Enoch (*Genesis 5:24*) and all will be called forth from the tomb. *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29).*

In the death and resurrection of Christ we are reminded that God has the last word. We can "kick against the goads" (*Acts 9:5*) but in the end we all will see the Lord face to face and have Him hand down His verdict. *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).*

- Bruce J. Dehut

Are You Committed?

By Allan McNabb

Commitment is a popular word in religious circles. But don't forget that commitment is a two-edged sword. When you commit yourself to God, you commit yourself to obey Him — with commitment comes responsibility.

What is Commitment?

In simplest terms, a commitment is "something pledged."

A parent promises to give a child candy after dinner — that is a commitment. A girl promises to go on a date with a boy — that is a commitment. God promises eternal life to the faithful — that is a commitment.

Our Commitment to Jesus

Although the word commitment does not appear in the Bible, Jesus reveals our commitment as His disciples. "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Lk. 14:26-27).

We must love Jesus above everything and everyone on earth — we must put Him first. Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:24-26)?

Jesus' Was Committed Upon Earth

Jesus requires a total, complete, sacrificial commitment from people who desire to be His disciples. But at the same time, Jesus has shown us the way to salvation by living the committed life He requires of us.

Jesus is therefore a sympathetic High Priest

(Heb. 4:14-16), leaving us an example of total commitment to God, "Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in turn; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

Thus, Jesus demonstrated commitment. He committed Himself to God by living righteously, and by suffering in order to bear our sins upon the cross — by His stripes we've been healed (1 Pet. 2:24).

Jesus Committed Himself to God in Death

With His last words and final breaths, Jesus committed Himself to God — complete and endless commitment while suffering on the cross. Moments before giving up His spirit, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit" (Lk. 23:46). He committed Himself to God, who judges righteously (1 Pet. 2:23).

Jesus Has Shown Us The Way

Jesus has shown us the way to salvation. "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9) — "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

We're committed to either Jesus or the world.

To whom are you committed? Are you committed to Christ? Have you entrusted yourself to God?

If I'm committed to God

I'll put Him first.

I'll serve Him in everything I do.

I'll entrust myself to Him and His judgment. I'll busily work in His kingdom, without distraction from the world.

I'll trust Him, rather than worry about things I can't control.

I'll cast my cares upon Him, and trust Him to deal with my problems.

I won't be afraid to die — God will take care of me, and my loved ones.

I'll live in heaven for eternity.

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Wayne Runner**

Opening Prayer: **Doug Smith**

Lord's Table: **Mike Shepherd
Chuck Sharp
Randall Alford
Andy Milliner**

Scripture Reading: **J.O. Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Brandon Yates**

Song Leader: **Wayne Runner**

Opening Prayer: **Brian Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Mike Shepherd**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Phelps**