



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Words Reveal Character

Tuesday, 3 February 2015

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

153rd General Assembly

- **TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM** in 403 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 12 NOON** in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am and again at 12 Noon. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2015 General Assembly is the book of Philippians.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as an evidence of my desire to be serving you. – Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

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Tuesday, 3 February 2015

Philippians 2:12-30 – “Words Reveal Character”

Psychologists report that 10,000 thoughts are processed by the human mind each and every day, which amounts to 3,654,000 a year. Imagine what the number of thoughts would be, if we were to give an account of every idle word. Jesus said, “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment” (Matt 12:36).

Jesus’ point is that our words are an accurate portrayal of our lives, and will thus form a suitable basis for either acquittal or condemnation. How great will be the condemnation for those who speak disdainful and vile words against God’s holy Son! In the case of believers, the penalty for careless words has been paid through the death of Jesus Christ. However, idle words that are unconfessed will result in loss at God’s judgment seat (Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 3:10-15; 4:5).

Words reveal character. Christianity should always be more than intellectual assent to particular doctrines and theologies, and thus a sanctified life and speech must accompany belief in the Bible. Right living (orthopraxis) is assisted by clarity and conviction regarding fundamental beliefs, which lead to right doctrine (orthodoxy).

Why do we prioritize Bible study during the demanding and quick paced legislative session? One answer is that biblical understanding is not only a corrective to incorporating habits that are inconsistent with biblical truth but also to guide your speech and thought with biblical approaches that are founded upon wholesome doctrine and theology, which can be used in responding to circumstances and persons.

Philippians 2 provides an example of theology used in a practical manner, and is indeed exemplary for all who confess faith in Jesus Christ. Note also the importance that one’s affirmation of biblical truths has not only in addressing a disputant’s behavior and thinking (in a significant manner), but also, simultaneously, to communicate facts regarding God, government, humanity, and the world in a manner that is consistent with God’s desire for “all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4), especially those “who are in authority” (2:1). Careful use of our actions (behavior) and speech (thinking) has a twofold effect for good.

LIVING WITH DIVINE ENABLEMENT

(*Phil 2:12-13*) Philippians 2:12-13 completes the section that began at 1:27. The words, “so then” (2:12), indicate that a proposition had been previously articulated and has now reached its concluding argument. The remainder of the verse, in which it is stated “you have always obeyed,” corresponds to the beginning of the section in which similar language was used. The persuasive argument to be like Christ is also based upon the appeal to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (2:12).

Note that the Bible does not say, “work for your salvation” (cf. Eph 2:8-9); rather, every believer is to live in such a manner that his or her salvation is evident. God’s divine provisions are always freely given and essential to satisfy the divine commands. The divine resource is stated in verse 13: “for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” God indwells the believer, in the person of the Holy Spirit, whereby He gives the incentive and strength to accomplish whatever He has required in his Holy Bible.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

No believer in Jesus Christ is ever alone because the Holy Spirit indwells them (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor 6:19). God works within the believer to enable him or her to do what is necessary, and in a manner consistent with his Word. Believers are dependent not upon themselves; rather, we are taught to rely upon the very resources of God. Scripture commands believers to “be filled with the Spirit,” which means to be controlled or influenced by God (Eph 5:18-21).

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit” in connected with the baptism of the Spirit. Spirit baptism is not commanded in Scripture (since it is a sovereign work of God in response to our faith and repentance: leading to conversion, the “new birth”) and thus it is a solitary event in the life of a believer. However, “filling” by the Spirit is commanded, and is to be characteristic of the believer’s life. Spirit baptism is the work of Jesus Christ whereby the church receives and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit,

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (3 February) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 403 CAP

Tuesday (3 February) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

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and is incorporated into one body of Christ and identified with the Lord's death and resurrection (Rom 6:1-11; 1 Cor 12:13).

GOD'S DIVINE PROVISIONS ARE ALWAYS FREELY GIVEN AND ESSENTIAL TO SATISFY THE DIVINE COMMANDS.

When you rely upon the indwelling Holy Spirit, you can do everything in action and thought "without grumbling or disputing" (Phil 2:14). Those who do not trust in the Lord Jesus may be expected to complain and quarrel; however, Christians are to have transformed lives. The believer can do the work that God has for him or her without being negative or rebellious.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

(Phil 2:14-18) Philippians 2:14-18 comprise a unit of thought that is not necessarily a plea for biblical motivations for our actions and speech, yet it is developed from that proposition and is certainly relevant to it. Our words reveal character, thus it is important not to complain and quarrel; yet the problem is unmistakable even when basic unity is evident. God loves those who cheerfully do what is required: not one who grumbles and causes difficulties for others when tasks are not accomplished.

Second Corinthians 9:7 – Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God compels not only to make a commitment to do what He desires from us but also to heed his commands with an attitude of willingness, and one manner to do so is by maintaining wholesome relationships with all who are involved. If we obey, we "prove ourselves to be blameless and innocent" (Phil 2:15). As "children of God, our life and words are to resemble "our Father who is heaven" as opposed to that of the unbelieving culture.

Deuteronomy 32:5 – "They have acted corruptly toward Him, they are not His children, because of their defect; But are a perverse and crooked generation.

People recognize those who are God's children (cf. Deut 32:5). Believers in the Lord Jesus are to live and speak in such a manner that is distinct from those without faith, and which identifies us as positive examples to follow. If the Lord God is working in our lives, we are to be unlike the unbelieving society around us, which often makes the unbeliever curious as to why we are not like them. We are, then, "the light of the world" (Matt 5:14). Our lives are part of a divine drama that is on public display before the universe (Eph 3:10). We are as conspicuous as "lights in the world" (Phil 2:15).

How do we live "above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation"? How do we shine as lights in the world? The answer is "by holding fast the word of life" (2:16). Only the living Word (Jesus Christ) and the written Word (the Bible) can provide us

direction and strength to have God work in our lives and keep us "blameless and innocent" before Him. Joy is faith in action!

LIVING IN UNITY

(Phil 2:19-30) Believers are reminded that present afflictions are not without purpose because it is God "who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (2:13). Believers are encouraged to "work out" this salvation that they already possess, as a process of maturity. They were also warned with regard to "grumbling or disputing" (2:14), which would manifest in controversy and disunity.

In addition to the example of Christ Jesus (2:1-11), the Apostle Paul provided his own testimony as an illustration for living a holy life. He was an example of his own preaching (2:17-18). Even in difficult circumstances, the Lord Jesus was Paul's example, and thus his primary purpose was serving God and others.

Timothy is another positive example because he devoted himself to serving the Lord and fellow believers with courage and sacrifice. He was equally concerned for the welfare of others and served with Paul "in the furtherance of the gospel" (2:19-24). Epaphroditus is the final example because he labored for the Lord, and served fellow believers even to exhaustion (2:25-30). He was willing to sacrifice without any complaint. The examples of Jesus, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus should be an encouragement to live in thought of others, to guard the words we speak, and to stimulate fellow believers to live with divine enablement and in unity with one another.

God's people will truly impact society for the better as we give priority to our own spiritual maturity. Furthermore, to truly impact political communities for Christ means witnessing hearts transformed by the gospel. While exhorting us to evangelize and disciple "kings and all who are in authority," the Bible reassures us that our lives and our nation will be better if leaders are those who believe *and* live the gospel message. Generally, those who are believers are more discerning, wise, reverent, and overall better role models for a country.

"The world through its wisdom does not know God" (1 Cor 1:21). "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor 2:14). Changing the heart is the biblical means to change the nation.

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission's mission, in partnership with the church, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and promote the biblical mandate to pray for those in authority in the Capitol communities throughout the United States and around the world. Every election cycle brings us hundreds of newly elected legislators into the twenty-four state capitols where we presently have a State Minister. We intend to be there to provide pastoral care for these men and women.

Please join us in this ministry!

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



Bible study copies made by:



**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:
TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY @ 7:30AM in 403 CAP
and again (with lunch) @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP**