

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

November 14, 2021

Exclusivity

By Derek Long

Our society today seems to be very pluralistic. People are allowed to think whatever they want to believe is the truth whether it is or not. People are allowed to think there are multiple different "lifestyles" which are all equally good and acceptable. People are allowed to think there are multiple paths to becoming a good person and of fulfilling one's purpose in life. The Bible however is a book which makes some very exclusive claims and as a result is a book which people often reject or attempt to reinterpret to support their desire for less restriction in various areas.

The Bible makes the exclusive claim that there is only one way to God and that is through Jesus Christ. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6, NKJV). Jesus taught He is the only way to the Father. A person cannot find God by pursuing the religious systems of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, etc. Neither can a person come to God without following the path laid out by Jesus in His teachings. Acts 4:12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (NKJV). Jesus Christ is the only place where a person can find salvation. A person cannot find salvation in following the teachings of Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, etc. A person can only find salvation when they are willing to submit to the teachings of Jesus Christ. A person who rejects Jesus and His teaching

will be judged by the very teaching they have rejected (John 12:48). Since Jesus is the only way to salvation and many reject what Jesus teaches about how to be saved, it follows many will be lost and only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-27). To make the exclusive claim that Jesus is the only way to the Father may not be popular in our society today but it is still the truth and we must proclaim it (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The Bible makes exclusive claims about the doctrine a person should teach. 2 John 9-11 says, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (NKJV). Paul told Timothy, "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia - remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith" (1 Timothy 1:3-4, NKJV), and "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and truth which are in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13, NKJV). It is plain a person is not at liberty to simply teach whatever they want. There is doctrine which is true and accords with godliness (1 Timothy 6:3) and there is doctrine which is false doctrine. Teaching error is not to be tolerated (Titus 1:10-14). The doctrine a person ought to teach is exclusive and singular in nature. Ephesians 4:5 refers to it as "one faith" (NKJV). When people depart from what the Bible teaches and begin teaching something else, they have entered the realm of "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9, NKJV). See also Colossians 2:22. A person who teaches something besides the doctrine of Christ no longer has God and so the Bible is exclusive when it comes to what a person is to teach.

The Bible makes exclusive claims when it comes to the one true church which belongs to the Lord. Jesus plainly stated in Matthew 16:18, "I will build My church" (NKJV). Jesus did not come to establish several different churches but to establish His church (singular). In Acts 2:47 we read of how, "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (NKJV). The Lord was not adding some of the saved to one church and some of the

saved to some other church. All the saved were added to the same church. Ephesians 4:4 says, "There is one body" (NKJV), and Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18 identify the body as the church meaning there is only one church. Ephesians 2:16 points out Christ reconciles men to God "in one body" (NKJV). However, many today want to say things like "join the church of your church," "it doesn't matter what church you belong to we are all heading to the same place," or, "one church is as good as another," etc. The Bible does not teach all the various churches are equally acceptable to God. In fact, the Bible teaches Jesus built one church (Matthew 16:18) and will only save those who are members of the one body (Ephesians 5:23).

Let's be people who are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ and His words (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:8; Mark 8:38) even when it makes exclusive claims which may be unpopular with many in the world around us today!