

THE EASTSIDE EXAMINER

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Meeting at the corner of Meadow Dr. and Hwy 24 E; Red Bay, AL

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SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible Study) 9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching) 10:30 AM
Sunday evening worship (Preaching) 4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study) .. 7:00 PM

THE EASTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Meeting at the corner of Meadow Dr. and Hwy 24 East Red Bay, AL)

INVITES YOU TO HEAR A SERIES OF LESSONS

PRESENTED FROM GOD'S WORD

JULY 11 - 16

The times for these lessons will be:

SUNDAY: 9:30 & 10:30 AM & 4:00 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 PM

The speaker will be Ben Hall

(From: Brooklyn New York)

For more information or transportation

Call 662-542-3170 or 256-333-0017

Please consider this to be your personal invitation to this series of Bible lessons
and please invite your neighbors and friends to attend with you.

WE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

As you read and contemplate this invitation, please consider the article contained on
the back page of this publication. If you have any questions, you may direct them to the
editor by email; the postal address or you simply call the phone number listed above in
the heading of this publication.

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT WE BELIEVE AND PRACTICE IN RELIGION?

Many religious people avoid the problem of doctrinal differences by saying it makes no difference what you believe. This sounds good, appeals to almost everyone and avoids offending anyone. However, almost no one is willing to accept the results of this conclusion in either the physical or spiritual realm.

If it makes no difference what we believe, there can be no false doctrine. Yet, Jesus warns about false prophets Matt 7:15. The Devil & his ministers can appear to be righteous 2Cor 11:14,15. We should not believe every spirit, but test them according to 1Jhn 4:1. So, according to what the Bible says, we are to put individuals to the test who claim to be of God, because there are many false teachers. If it makes no difference what we believe, why all the warnings about false teachers. If it makes no difference what we believe, then it makes no difference what the Bible says, and we can believe anything we want.

Our attitude toward the bible makes all the difference. The Bible is God's final revelation to man. 2Tim 3:16,17 says: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. Everything we need to make us a mature, complete child of God is contained in the Bible. 2Pet 1:3 teaches us that we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness. Whether or not we obey God's will determines whether we have salvation Matt 7:21-23. It is not enough to call Jesus 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what He says Lk 6:46. We must not add to or subtract from His word according to Rev 22:18,19. The Bible plainly teaches that we must abide IN His doctrine 2Jhn 1:9.

Religious division cannot be of God. God is not the author of confusion but of peace 1Cor 14:33. Therefore, we must test our differences by the Bible lest we have false security through following man's way rather than God's. Isa 55:8,9 says: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. We must speak where the bible speaks and remain silent where the bible is silent 1Pet 4:11.

Obviously, every detail involved in methods of carrying out God's will is not specifically stated in the Bible, but principles of truth and right must govern every action. Modern conveniences allow nice buildings, lighted etc. and the Bible on the printed page as well as in electronic form. They allow for teaching through TV and radio as well as other methods not available during the days of the apostles. However, in seeking the commandments of God we must determine to obey them within the framework of the same class or kind of that which is specified or demonstrated as approved by God. For example, baptism as a burial or an immersion is specified Rom 6:4. Therefore, to sprinkle or simply pour water on someone and call it baptism is a change in the kind of action that was commanded. Yet to choose to baptize or immerse in a river creek, lake or baptistery does not change the action commanded. Assembling on the first day of the week for worship is taught as a precept by an approved apostolic example Acts 20:7; 1Cor 16:1,2. To meet another day to engage in acts of worship that are specified for that day, changes the classification of the day authorized. However, to choose an early or late hour is within that which is commanded. It is important to keep in mind this basic difference. An AID helps carry out the command. However, ADDITIONS make a change in the class or kind of the command. For example, singing or vocal music is commanded Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. Both of these verses specify singing or vocal music, so to add a mechanical instrument, which is another kind of music, to worship would be an addition rather than an aid. Creed books keep us divided. They are written by men or groups of men. Though they may be spiritual leaders, their decisions and / or ideas cannot supersede or take the place of the authority of Christ. Matt 28:18 teaches Jesus has all authority therefore man has none. Man may decide on the means or methods of carrying out commands and precepts revealed in the Bible, but the means and methods must not change what Jesus authorized. If a book contains more or less than the Bible, it is of men and constitutes a creed. If it contains nothing more or less than the Bible, it is the Bible and therefore of God and must be believed.

Why not put away the wedges of division and seek to unite on a thus saith the Lord. Remember 1Pet 4:11 says: If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If you find something commanded in the Bible that you have not obeyed, would you be willing to obey? If you find you are doing something for which you have no scriptural authority, will you stop? Only by following the Bible exclusively can we be pleasing to God and have hope of living eternally with Him in heaven. (By Jerry L. Henderson)