

MATTHEW 22:42-WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

In this passage is proposed an important question concerning an important character. A more extraordinary and interesting personage than the Lord Jesus Christ has never appeared on the earth, or enlisted the attention of men. Much is said of Him in the sacred scriptures, by Prophets, by Apostles, and Evangelists employed for the purpose. This we might naturally expect, since he is the substance of all the doctrines of grace, in whom all the promises are yea and amen. Our religious duty immediately respects him, and we are bound by gospel authority, particularly to know Him, to believe in His name, to trust in His righteousness, to rely on His grace, to submit to His will, and to look to Him as the author and finisher of faith.

Such being our obligations, it is rational to conclude that His true character is plainly revealed and clearly distinguished in the sacred volume. This, my hearers, has been open before you for inspection and examination....

I. We begin with His TITLES, especially those by which real Deity is plainly expressed. It cannot escape your notice that the terms, Lord, Ruler, King, Governor, and a variety

of others, which are not discriminating, are, in the scriptures, frequently applied both to the Father and the Son. But still, to distinguish underived Divinity, heaven has reserved appropriate titles.

God, is a name which designates Divinity of character; and is never applied to creatures, except in a sense evidently figurative. But Christ, the word, is in an emphatical manner, often stiled *God*. "And the word was with, and the word was *God*." - "Christ, who is *God* blessed forever." "In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the *Godhead* bodily." "Great is the mystery of godliness; *God* was manifest in the flesh." And long before His appearance on earth, devine inspiration gave explicit direction to call Him by a name of *this* import. "And shall call *His name Emmanuel*." The interpretation is, God with us.

HIGHEST or MOST HIGH, is a title which denotes a charcter truly Divine. "The Lord thundered in the heavens, and the highest gave His voice." "The Highest shall establish her" (Zion.) This title is applied to the Savior. Zachariah, filled with the Holy Ghost, prophesied over his infant son and said, "Thou, child, shalt be called the

prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare *his* ways." This child was evidently John, the Baptist, who by preparing the way, preaching repentance, and pointing out Christ as the Messiah, was especially *his* prophet. And accordingly is called "the prophet of the Highest," (Christ.)

ALMIGHTY, is a title which plainly signifies supreme Deity. "Canst thou by searching find out God! Canst thou comprehend the Almighty unto perfection!" This the Lord Jesus applies to himself, in the revelation. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the *Almighty*."

From the pamphlet entitled, "Two Sermons," delivered in Shelburne, Mass. May 15, 1808, by Theophilus Packard, A.M. In which are plainly exhibited the essential divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the importance of viewing and treating Him according to His real character.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Report on the A.V.	1
A Note from Elder Gary Howard	2
Man in the Shadows Part III	3
Hermeneutical Principles	7
Babylon Mystery Religion	7
What think ye of Christ?	8

APOSTOLIC VOICE PUBLICATIONS

AVP
P.O. Box 61
Madera, California
USA 93639-0061
(559) 673-3233

In this issue, we have the last installment of Bro. Gregg's article, "Man in the Shadows." This writing is a must read for all those that endeavor to help their pastor, particularly to those that are in leadership positions. It also contains a wealth of practical information for those aspiring to the ministry. We will also have this article available in booklet form. Call to pre-order your copies.

Elder Gary Howard's note on page two gives us a glimpse of the excitement that is created when our churches give to the mission. He was so moved by the experience, that now his church is going to fill a container of goods to send to the Philippines. If you would like to help us in a similar project or simply want to donate certain items, please let us know. There are

plenty of saints in need that would enjoy having these special gifts.

Elder Howard and Elder Bowling were also a tremendous blessing to the Philippine Conference. We appreciate their ministry and burden for souls. We thank the Howards and the Bowlings for taking the time to help the Philippine Mission.

The article on page seven is on Bible interpretation. This is a very important topic that we hope will provoke more interest. There are several books on this subject that I will recommend in the next issue. The excerpt we used on the same page is from the book entitled, "Babylon Mystery Religion" and has become somewhat of a collector's item. Call us if you would like our assistance in obtaining a copy.

The article on page eight is from a pamphlet that I

found in Salt Lake City as I was book-hunting with Elder Wheeler. I was intrigued by the author's writing style and by how old and fragile the manuscript looked—it's dated 1808. I also had to buy it because it's always interesting to see Trinitarians preach on Oneness! I thought you might enjoy an excerpt of a message that was preached in the early 1800's.

We would also like to introduce the Acts 2:38 Bible Study. This one-hour study goes through all the conversions in the book of Acts. This is a great soul-winning tool and introduces the Pentecostal experience to souls that need the Lord. Call us to receive a free copy for your review.

I hope you are enjoying your copy of the Apostolic Voice.

Sincerely,
Dennis Garza

THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLE IS FROM THE BOOKLET:

"Man in the Shadows" by Galen Gregg - Part III

A NOTE FROM ELDER GARY HOWARD

In the month of February of this year, Brother and Sister Bowling of Brookhaven, Mississippi, along with my wife and I, traveled to the Philippines to minister at the General Conference of the Apostolic Ministers Fellowship hosted by Missionary E. W. Wheeler. We were so blessed by the move of God and the response in every service to the Word of God. We witnessed several people filled with the Holy Ghost and several backsliders restored. God confirmed His word nightly with many documented miracles and healings.

Sometime during the night, a big 18-wheeler truck delivered a 40-foot container to the church. The last day there, we awoke to find everything in a stir as excitement filled the air. Saints and ministers alike hustled to unload the big container filled with used clothing, tools, supplies, musical instruments, computer equipment, and many other useful articles to be used by the churches and the saints. It was hard to keep back the tears as older ministers were beside themselves with joy as each received just a few pieces of used clothing. They were so thankful for the generosity of the saints in America.

It is impossible for us that live in the affluence of America to understand the poverty that most struggle with in this nation. Most Americans make more money in a week or two than many of these poor people earn in a year. The things we send to them reduces their struggles to survive in such a poverty stricken nation. I returned home determined to send a container from *our* saints to bless the work of God and the saints in the Philippines. Perhaps you would be interested in helping Brother Wheeler in such an endeavor, either with goods or perhaps an offering to offset the shipping cost and levies to get the containers into the country.

Pastor Gary Howard
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mission Statement

Since our first publication in the early eighties, our mission has been to provide “doctrine and instruction in righteousness” to the churches in the Philippines (II Timothy 3:16). By request, we are expanding our circulation, trusting that God will bless and use it for the benefit of His Kingdom.



APOSTOLIC VOICE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Board of Directors

E. W. Wheeler — President

Galen Gregg — Secretary

Dennis Garza — Treasurer

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief / Publisher

E. W. Wheeler

Editor

Dennis Garza—Madera, CA

Project Manager / Assistant Editor

Mike Klann—Fresno, CA

Legal Department

Galen Gregg—Thousand Oaks, CA

Layout & Design / Assistant Editor

Pete Wierzbicki—Madera, CA

Secretary

Taruli Guerrero—Madera, CA

APOSTOLIC MISSIONS

Board of Directors

E. W. Wheeler—Chairman/Founder

Jim Lee—Secretary

John Bullock—Treasurer

Steve Kelley—Kamiah, ID

Board of Advisors

Steve Stoltzfus—Las Vegas, NV

Gary Howard—Tulsa, OK

Ben Weeks—Lake Park, GA

Phil White—Burbank, CA

Apostolic Missions
1085 W. Freeway
Vidor, Texas
USA 77662-4617

HERMENEUTICAL PRINCIPLES BY DENNIS GARZA

In the book of Matthew, Jesus came against an entire school of thought when He rebuked the Sadducees for their incorrect view regarding the resurrection. Jesus said, “Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God” (Mt.22:29). Though the Sadducees may have been well versed, they still did not “know” what the Scriptures clearly said: that there is a resurrection. In fact they were so confident and dogmatic in their belief system that they even created scenarios that were not based in reality (Mt.22:23-28).

This is a scary thought... that someone can be well versed, confident, yea, even dogmatic, and yet be doctrinally incorrect. That someone can read the Bible and still not “know” its meaning. Thus fulfilling the warning that Paul gave to Timothy: that some would be “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7).

Paul gives us an insight as to how and why this can take place: “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth; men of corrupt minds...” (2 Timothy 3:8). The Sadducees clearly resisted truth. And they were corrupt. But somewhere, somehow, this false view on the resurrection became a viable school of thought. Maybe there was just enough truth mixed-in to make it plausible to those that embraced it. Supposition, theories and commentary as good as they may sound are simply conjecture until it has been clearly established as truth.

It has been said, that a lie told often enough becomes a truth in the minds of those that hear it. Maybe this doctrine was just an opinion at one time, and then it was repeated over and over again, and then people of influence continued to promote it until it became a force to contend with.

Today, there are still variant schools of thought, some more potentially dangerous than others. For example, some believe the Church has always existed since Pentecost. Others may believe that the Church died out and resurfaced as a by-product of the Reformation. Which view is correct? Or is there another possibility? Whatever position you take, it is important to remember that in all probability, this can affect or jaundice the way you interpret the Bible—it’s all tied together. Furthermore, consider the potential impact this could have on our overall world-view or mind-set.

So how do we protect ourselves from false doctrine or from errant schools of thought? The following principles offer us some insight:

(1) “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). We must be sure that our beliefs are founded solely on the Truth of scripture—a true student of the Word of God should not be intimidated with the prospect of conducting a thorough examination of their origin

and accuracy. Everything must be meticulously studied for oneself, regardless of the source or the emotional attachment one has to a particular belief.

(2) “Prove all things...” (I Th.5:21). Basically, the safest thing to do when dealing with any given subject is to do a complete search on the topic involved. Some call this the “Complete Mention Principle.” So instead of forming an opinion based on one or two selected verses, this principle will help us see the “complete picture” on any given subject.

(3) “Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled” (Titus 1:15). The Sadducees had a different “world-view,” or perspective—their view would not allow them to “see” the truth. Their carnal mindset produced carnal doctrines. Wasn’t this the case with Rome? Wasn’t this the case with Joseph Smith and Brigham Young? This is why it is so important to have a pure mind and a right spirit. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

The subject of Bible interpretation is vast and far beyond the scope of this publication. These three principles are just a few examples of the way we arrive at Truth. Loyalty to a particular school of thought can lead us astray. Remember, we do not want to err; we want to *know* the scriptures and the power of God.

BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION

One noted Roman Catholic writer, Alphonsus Liguori, wrote at length telling how much more effectual prayers are that are addressed to Mary rather than to Christ. (Liguori, incidently, was canonized as a “saint” by Pope Gregory XIV in 1839 and was declared a “doctor” of the Catholic church by Pope Pius IX.) In one portion of his writings, he described an imaginary scene in which a sinful man saw two ladders hanging from heaven. Mary was at the top of one; Jesus at the top of the other. When the sinner tried to climb the one ladder, he saw the angry face of Christ and fell defeated. But when he climbed Mary’s ladder, he ascended easily and was openly welcomed by Mary who brought him to heaven and presented him to Christ! Then all was well. The story was supposed to show how much easier and more effective it is to go to Christ through Mary. The same writer said that the sinner who ventures to come directly to Christ may come with dread of his wrath. But if he will pray to the Virgin, she will only have to “show” that son “the breasts that gave him suck” and his wrath will be immediately appeased! Such reasoning is in direct conflict with scriptural example: “Blessed is the womb that bare thee,” a woman said to Jesus, “and the paps that thou has sucked!” But Jesus answered, “Yea, rather blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:27,28).

This excerpt is from chapter three of Ralph Woodrow’s, “Babylon Mystery Religion.”

("Shadows" continued from page 3)

Your Relationship With Your Pastor

Several years ago a very wise man taught me a little saying. "A good understanding makes for long time friends." Very plain and frequent communication is needed between the assistant and his pastor.

The assistant must understand what is expected of him. It is a good idea to have a written contractual agreement and, as much as is possible, a job description. If you, as an assistant, do not understand exactly what is expected of you, ask. It is not the pastor's fault, it is yours. Communicate.

A full-time assistant should talk to the pastor at least once a day. It should take no longer than 3 or 4 minutes to fill him in on anything he should know. (Use your list.) The pastor should never be kept in the dark. There are some things he does not need to be bothered with, but if there is the least doubt, mention it and if he wants know more he can ask. You are another set of eyes and ears for the pastor. No one in the church should tell you anything that they do not want the pastor to know. You work for him. You are an extension of him. You are his eyes and ears, and if you think he should know you should tell him. If you are gathering information for him, type it clearly so he can use it readily. If he needs names, addresses, or phone numbers with the information, have them ready.

When you report to the pastor do it briefly and concisely. Remember, you are there to help him use his time better, not waste it.

You must be loyal to your pastor. Once, I returned to visit a church of which I had been a member in the past. After service, as I was leaving, someone cornered me to tell of a problem they were having in the church. I suppose they thought their secret was safe with me, but there are no secrets I want to keep from the pastor. As soon as they finished talking, I went straight to the pastor and told him. The situation was an ongoing problem that he needed to know about. You must be loyal to your pastor.

Everyone should be afraid to say anything bad about your pastor in front of you. Not because you will tell him (you should not repeat unkind remarks to him) but because you will defend him. Stand by him, be loyal. If for some reason you cannot be loyal, it is time to resign. To the people of the congregation that you serve, it should always appear that you totally agree with the pastor. You should be the first to say amen when he preaches. In doing so, you can have a great impact on the services. If the people see you respond they are apt to follow your lead, get behind the pastor when he preaches.

Never, under any circumstances, should you disagree publicly with the man you work with. There

will be times you offer your input and give your opinion, but do it very carefully and in the right spirit.

Once a month you should go to the man you work with and specifically ask him if everything is all right. Ask if there is anything you need to do differently. Do not wait for him to tell you, go to him and ask. This will keep good communication lines open and give him the opportunity to talk with you about the way he feels. If, in the process of this meeting, you are told to change something, do it. Do not sulk. Do not pout. Do not have hurt feelings. We do not have time to let our feelings get in the way of the work of God. Make the change or changes necessary, then get on with it!

You must pray for your pastor. He has a great responsibility; he needs prayer. In praying for your pastor, two things can be accomplished. First, God will respond to your prayer and bless him. Second, let God speak to you about anything you need to do for him. Sometimes the pastor will hesitate to ask someone to do things for him; let God speak to you in this area. He is the man of God, you are his servant. Hold up his hands.

The assistant must learn to be very ethical in his relationships with other ministers. If you are invited to preach, make sure it's all right with your pastor. You should have a good understanding with the man you work with as to how out-

side preaching invitations will be handled. The pastor may want all invitations to go through him. If this is the case, respond to invitations with a request that they "talk to Brother Pastor first" Your pastor may have an agreement that you can accept invitations to preach, if so, fine, however you must remember to notify him as soon as possible. You should not tell him what you are going to do but ask him if it's okay with him. Remember, you are working with him and for him, he is the pastor and you must defer to his wishes.

Never, under any circumstances should a man speak negatively about his pastor to another minister. If you have a problem with something he is doing, talk to him. If it can't be talked about, keep your mouth shut.

Lastly, always remember that he is the pastor. You must defer to him. God does not speak to you about the church without speaking to the pastor. Never forget your place.

Your Relationship With Others

There are two ways in which a man may be put in the position of Assistant pastor. First, a man may be asked to move into the city specifically to assume the position. Second, he may be promoted to the position from his home congregation. The former is by far the easiest situation. The latter is more difficult so I will address it first.

When a man is raised from a young age in a particular assembly, or he comes into the church from the world, there is only one element that can cause him to gain respect in the eyes of the people. That element is time. The saints have seen him fail. They have seen his mistakes. Perhaps some knew him as a little boy. Any of these circumstances will cause them to "look down" on him. Time and faithfulness are the only things that will gain their respect. Be kind, thoughtful, helpful, have a good spirit, work hard, and be patient. In time, things will unfold.

A young man, with whom I am acquainted, became frustrated shortly after becoming assistant pastor because the people still called him by his first name. He thought they should call him Brother "last name." Respect cannot be demanded, it must be earned.

When a man moves into a city specifically to assume the position of assistant the people usually do not know him. He should be friendly, personable, make a point to learn names, do all he can to put the people at ease. Walk softly and easy until you become acquainted, then you can let things unfold from there.

The assistant pastor may have to sever some intimate friendships. While a man must not feel that he is better than anyone else he must realize that it is different now for him. It is my opinion that a full time assistant should not cultivate friendships among the saints.

There are too many ways in which he may be misunderstood. Be friendly to everyone and cultivate friendships with other ministers.

It is a good idea, a young man especially, for an assistant to work at having several good friends who are ministers. You will have a good relationship, even socially, with your pastor, however you need to work at having some other minister friends. Choose men to be your friends who are progressive, forward moving, godly, and prayerful.

Your Future

It seems that there is a preconceived approach to thinking when it comes to the assistant pastor. It is as follows; An assistant pastor is a young boy whose ministry has not developed fully as yet and in time he will mature to the place that he will pastor a church on his own. This mode of thought has hindered the work of God.

Some young men have pushed too hard to arrive at the perceived level of maturity only to wreck their ministry and sometimes a church in the process. Others, who should never pastor, have attempted to make the will of God fit their wishes or ambitions. It is time we understood that there is a God-ordained position of assistant pastor that needs to be filled by qualified, wise, understanding, mature, men.

I am acquainted with a man, who has a tremendous dedication and

("Shadows" continued from page 5)

zeal for the work of God. When he was very young he attended a church where several young men his age felt they were called to preach. When this man made no attempt to be licensed or showed no ambition to pastor or evangelize he was questioned by many church members (they needed to keep their nose in their own business instead of where it didn't belong). This young, very wise man went to his pastor and said, "I don't feel the call of God to do anything but be a part of this church. I will be faithful and do my part here." Was he afraid? No. Did he lack ability? No. Consequent years have shown that he has tremendous ability. Did he lack pulpit ability? No. Many pastors I know cannot preach as well as he. Did he lack wisdom? No. Many times he has shown good judgment in difficult situations. This young man in a very wise way understood that his place was simply to be an assistant. He has been a continual blessing and tremendous help over the years. He has been a far more effective soul-winner than he could ever have been as a pastor.

Young men, you must find the will of God for your life. "Make your calling sure." If your calling is to start a church, do it. If God calls you to evangelize, do it. If God calls you to assist, do it. An assistant pastor is not a second-rate, limited ability, immature minister who ranks somewhere below all others. He is a man who has found his calling and fills a position that cries for qualified men.

There have been men who went to a city to start a church who not only failed but "ruined the city" for any chance that a church might be started. In many cases it has taken a long time for the stigma of that failure to be overcome in that city. "Make your calling sure."

I have observed, for many years, a man who is no longer young, who fills a position as assistant pastor. The pastor that he works with is a tremendously respected man that is esteemed as a minister of tremendous success. Careful observation shows much of his success is due to the fact he has a second man who is effective and efficient,

a man he can trust, who frees his hands that he may have time to pray, seek God, and find spiritual direction. Success would never have been achieved as it has without that second man. If you ask him when he is "going out on his own" he will reply, "I'm just doing the will of God." He has made his calling sure. This man is not dumb or foolish or immature, he has found a place in God.

In some cases the assistant is a young man who is learning and growing. He will someday leave the church where he is to enter another ministry. In other cases the assistant will be a mature and wise man who is filling a much-needed ministry in a very effective way. Assistant pastors should not be perceived as a second-rate, immature man but as men fulfilling a worthy ministry.

If the position of assistant pastor is for you a growing time that will pass when you move on. Make your calling sure. If the position of assistant pastor is for you an arrival, make your calling sure.

MAN IN THE SHADOWS (PART 3 OF 3)

One of the biggest parts of your job is to protect your pastor's time. Take his car to the car wash, take his suits to the cleaners, perform his odd jobs, run his errands. Take on the more mundane work and free his hands to pastor the church—this is your work.

If part of your responsibility is praying for the sick then get in the habit of carrying a small bottle of oil. When you go to the hospital, call ahead. The individual may have already been discharged. Find out what room they are in while on the phone, it will save time. Hospital visits don't need to be lengthy. Find out how they are, pray for them, talk a few minutes, and leave. Most of the time people in the hospital don't want a lot of visitors. When you pray, you do not have to whisper, but be respectful of others around, do not shout.

When it comes to the work that you will do in spiritual areas, there are two things to be remembered. One, prayer is part of our work. Two, you must be careful to harmonize with the pastor. Everyday, without fail, you must bring your "things to talk to God about" list to prayer. In the course of your labor you will attempt to help many people, but you will find in many cases that there is nothing you can do personally except pray. You become an intercessor. Because you care, you pray. Then you will find as you pray that you begin to care more.

This is a spiritual work, it cannot be done using carnal tools. Computers, typewriters, cars, and telephones can only do a small part of the work. Prayer is part of your job. Prayer is effective. Prayer changes things. You must pray.

It is extremely important that the assistant is in harmony with the pastor. In any counseling you may do, be it a word of encouragement, or a lengthy conversation, be mindful of agreeing with the pastor. The preaching and teaching you do must not disagree with anything he teaches, it must enhance his ministry. If the church needs rebuking it is not your place to do it. You are not the pastor. He will handle those things.

All of this is not to say that you will not have your own opinions. Men have worked together when they disagreed on some things. These can be minor areas and cause no conflict, but never openly disagree with the pastor. Just do not talk, preach, or teach in those areas. Respect his position. He is the pastor.

You will probably assist in direction of services. Learn to do a good job. You should be able to lead songs and start choruses. If you cannot, work on doing so. The purpose of the service leader is to encourage worship. If the service leader sincerely and enthusiastically enters into worship the congregation will follow. Experience is the best teacher.

The assistant needs to learn to worship with one eye on the pastor. You are there to help him. If he needs help, be alert to help him. If he wants a chorus, be ready. I observed one pastor who absolutely could not sing. He had a certain little motion that meant, "sing a chorus." Those who worked with him kept a microphone close by and quickly responded. You are there to help him. Make him look good. Be alert to what he needs. You are his assistant.

(continued on page 4)



Galen Gregg is a husband, the father of three children who all live for God, and the proud grandfather of three grandsons. Both sets of grandparents were true Apostolic, with one grandfather being an old-time brush arbor evangelist. Brother Gregg began his ministry in his early twenties with God eventually guiding him to Fresno, California where he worked as an assistant under the ministry of Elder Vaughn Morton for some 12 years. He then assumed the pastorate of a church in central California for several years and now pastors in southern California in the city of Thousand Oaks.

Send all articles and contributions for the publication of the AV Newsletter to:

AVP
P.O. Box 61
Madera, California
USA 93639-0061
For Subscriptions Call: (559) 673-3233

Send contributions for the continued support of Apostolic Missions:

Apostolic Missions
1085 W. Freeway
Vidor, Texas
USA 77662-4617
Thank You For Your Support!