

"Up The Creek" BLOG

by

Robert A. "Russ" Russell.

I find myself up A NEW CREEK IN 2016,
SALINAS VALLEY PRISON. THE CHAPLAIN HAS TURNED
OVER THE CHAPEL PROGRAM TO FOUR INMATES.

ONE OF THESE INMATES, FRISBEE, TEACHES
"THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT" IS NOT FOR THE CHURCH.

AFTER HE STATED THIS I APPROACHED HIM IN PRIVATE
AND TOLD HIM "WHAT I HEAR YOU SAYING IS
THAT JESUS' TEACHINGS ARE NOT FOR HIS CHURCH."

I WAS SURE HE WOULD SEE THE LIGHT, INSTEAD
HE INFORMED ME THAT WAS CORRECT BECAUSE "HIS
TEACHINGS WERE PRE-CROSS AND THEREFORE NOT
FOR THE CHURCH." "WE FOLLOW PAUL."

YES, I SHARED WITH HIM ALL THE SCRIPTURES
THAT JUST CAME TO YOUR MIND, ALL TO KNOW AVOID.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A FIVE MINUTE DEVOTIONAL
I PUT TOGETHER. I PRESENTED IT TO THESE "INMATE
ELDERS" AND ASKED PERMISSION TO SHARE IT AT A
MONDAY BIBLE STUDY.

I WAS TOLD "IT WOULD CONFUSE BELIEVERS".
PLEASE READ THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH + CLARITY OF MY
TEACHING THEN JOIN ME IN PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH
HERE THAT IS NOT ALLOWED THESE FOUNDATIONAL
TRUTHS. BETTER YET, CALL THE CHAPLAIN HERE
AND GIVE VOICE TO YOUR CONCERN.

IN HIM

Russ Gal 2:20

DEVOTIONAL

I AM RUSS. I HAVE TWO SIGNS ON MY WALL - FACING ME AT ALL TIMES. ONE IS 11-20-14. THATS THE DATE I LAST TOOK A DRUG. THE OTHER SIGN SIMPLY SAYS "ABSOLUTE TRUTH". ONE IS THERE TO REMIND ME TO STAY CLEAN (OF EVEN PSYCHOLOGIST PRESCRIBED PILLS). THE OTHER TO NEVER LIE. THEY SAY A LOT ABOUT MY STRUGGLES. I'M NOT MUCH.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY MESSAGE NOT THE MESSENGER.

WE'RE TOLD TO "AVOID DISPUTABLE MATTERS." IN MY OPINION IF ITS NOT A ISSUE OF A FOUNDATION OF FAITH, ITS A DISPUTABLE MATTER. FORGET ABOUT IT.

JESUS TAUGHT THE FOUNDATIONS OF MY FAITH.

IN NUMBERS 22:22-30 WE READ OF BALAAMS DONKEY. BASICALLY A DUDE NEEDED TO BE CHECKED SO GOD HAD HIS DONKEY TELL HIM WHAT TIME IT IS. NO ONE NEEDS TO BE CHECKED, BUT I'M A BIT LIKE BALAAMS DONKEY HERE.

WHAT CHRIST TAUGHT HE TAUGHT TO HIS DISCIPLES. QUESTION: ARE YOU - PERSONALLY - HIS DISCIPLE?

THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE! GREAT NEWS CHURCH! AMEN. IT'S THE WISE HE MAKES FOOLISH.

"HERMENEUTICS." IT'S A BIG, IMPORTANT SOUNDING WORD. IT MEANS "THE ART AND SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION." IF YOU GO TO BIBLE COLLEGE - AFTER WORKING A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM, WE ALL SHOULD! - CHANCES ARE GREAT YOU'LL HAVE THAT COURSE YOUR FIRST SEMESTER OF YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR. SOME PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL

Interpretation ARE: Who is the audience? What is the cultural and historical setting? What literary techniques are used - hyperbole, parable, etc. and - VERY important "Solis Scripturous" Scripture ALONE! Scripture interprets scripture.

MAIN RULE: THE BIBLE SAYS WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS. NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS? KEEP READING, IT WILL BE EXPLAINED. EVENTUALLY.

I took Her menuectics in the Spring of '93. I REMEMBER I got ALL puffed up after I took that COURSE - SO important sounding! Professing to be wise, I BECAME A FOOL.

BE A ^{BETTER} ~~BARETT~~ Church. READ Acts 17:10-11. PARAPHRASE "RECEIVE WHAT YOUR BROTHER TELLS YOU (trust), THEN SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE IF ITS SO. VERITY.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE AND TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST. DISCIPLE IS DEFINED AS "A STUDENT OF AND ADHERENT OF ANOTHERS TEACHINGS."

ARE YOU A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST? If yes, WHAT HE TAUGHT & HE TAUGHT TO YOU. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS FOUND IN MATH 5:1-2 - THE INTRO TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. CAUTION: WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW (THE LETTER) OF WHAT HE TAUGHT, BUT THE SPIRIT OF WHAT HE TAUGHT. (SEE RM 8:2 & RM 10:17)

CHRIST TAUGHT WHAT HE TAUGHT TO YOU - PERSONALLY. DON'T GET IT TWISTED.

IN MATH 28:18-20 THE DISCIPLES (US) WERE SENT OUT TO TEACH OTHERS WHAT HE TAUGHT.

LET'S CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. MORE BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY CHRISTIAN AUTHORS ON THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE MORE THAN ALL OTHERS, BY A HUGE MARGIN.

BONHOEFFER'S CLASSIC WORK ON DISCIPLESHIP USES THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT "AS A BLUE PRINT FOR TRUE DISCIPLESHIP". I HAVE THE C. B. D. AD FOR HIS BOOK RIGHT OVER THERE AT MY SEAT WHICH STATES THE ABOVE. TRUST BUT VERIFY. BE A ~~BARETTA~~ BEREAN Church!

My study Bible - A ZONDERVAN NASB, but ALSO THE NIV Study Bible SAYS: "THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT JESUS GAVE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AS A STANDARD FOR ALL CHRISTIANS." THE GENERAL EDITOR AND ASSOCIATE EDITORS TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NOTE INDICATED. ITS RIGHT HERE.

"GOSPEL" IS DEFINED AS "THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST." LET ME REMIND YOU, HE, AND ONLY HE, IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH (AND PRACTICE).

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT CONTAINS TEACHINGS ON: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, GIVING TO THE POOR, GOOD DEEDS, OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD, FASTING, PRAYER TRUE TREASURE VS MONEY, THE CURE FOR ANXIETY, JUDGING OTHERS, THE NARROW GATE VS THE WIDE, A TREE BY ITS FRUIT, THE GOLDEN RULE.

GREAT NEWS Church, its ALL for you!
As Bonhoeffer said "A Blueprint". You don't
NEED to wing it or trust in MAN - Trust THE
MAN!

Saints you NEED to test the spirits. BE
A ~~BAREAN~~ BEREAN!

A FEW MORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO SHARE:

- ① WE ARE to be united. How? "LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, WHICH IS ALSO IN CHRIST."
- ② SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES. Chief A MAN WHO CAUSES DIVISION.
- ③ PAUL'S GOSPEL, "THE PAULINE GOSPEL" ROMANS. IS CHRIST GOSPEL NOT THE GOSPEL OF PAUL. READ 1 COR. 1:12-13. AND PAUL'S OWN WORDS IN 1 COR 3:4 PARAPHRASE "IF YOU SAY 'I AM OF PAUL' YOU ARE CARNALLY MINDED AND GOT IT TWISTED"

FINALLY, WE WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR EACH WORD WE SPEAK. TEACHERS/PREACHERS WILL BE HELD TO A FEARFUL ACCOUNT OF WHAT THEY TEACH.

THIS STUFF AINT NO JOKE - ITS LITERALLY A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH. THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING IN THIS UNIVERSE FOR US IS WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS TEACHINGS. LETS NOT GET IT TWISTED Church.

BE A BEREAN!

EVERY WORD IVE JUST SAID I AM NOW FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR.

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I HAVE EVERY WORD WRITTEN HERE IF YOU WANT TO COMMENT, CHALLENGE OR DISCUSS IT.

NOW - LETS LIVE OUT JN 3:30 + GAL. 2:20 AND GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES CHURCH!

IN CLOSING, 2 JN 1:9 READS "ANYONE WHO GOES TO FAR AND DOES NOT ABIDE IN THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST, DOES NOT HAVE GOD".

HEY, ITS WHAT IT SAYS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.