

HIRAM CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hiramchurchofChrist.com · 7660 Nebo Road, Hiram, GA 30141 · (770) 943-9977

LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU AND SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU

Vol. 16 No. 14 - April 7, 2019

"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:11

"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16

FIRST CENTURY CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MINISTER: MELVIN J. BRYANT II





ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements: Matt Johnson
Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Clarence Proctor
Lord's Table: Jeff Kirkland
Devin Bryant
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: 13
Bible Class: 17
Worship: 23
Wednesday: 14
Contribution: \$TBA

Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour 9:00am
 Bible Class 10:00am
 Morning Worship 11:00am
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes 7:30pm

The Morning Hour

- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study - Rightly Dividing
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

Missions: India & Childhaven

PLAN OF SALVATION

- ★ Taught by God - John 6:45
- ★ Believe - John 8:24
- ★ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
(Repentance entails counting the cost)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10

BIBLICAL WARNING

SUGAR-COATED PREACHING IS
DANGEROUS TO YOUR SOUL.
2 Timothy 4:3-4

WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREATED OUR CELL PHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...carried it with us everywhere?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more each day using it?



What would our lives look like?

ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES

Lea Overton (Jeff's mother), Sebastian and Erica Suarez, Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Potts/Williams family, Kilwonia Chandler, Barbara Helton, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Charlie Griffin, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Shirley Glosson (radiation), Ben Westbrook (leukemia)

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Brad and Doranda** have moved, let us rejoice with them!
- ▶ **Donda Gilbert** a classmate of Bro. Bryant is in need of prayer for health and the crisis that surrounds her. Let us pray that she can be encouraged that there is hope in the Lord.
- ▶ **Trae Webb** daughter is doing better with chemo treatments.
- ▶ **Carolyn** recently fractured her tibia. The doctor wanted her to use a wheelchair or walker, but she has been hobbling around with them. She has been going through other health issues as well. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **Mrs. Joanie** has not been feeling well lately. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **Mary Troup** had mouth surgery and is in need of our prayers.
- ▶ **Ann Phillips** is still in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested prayers for his son in law, Tommy. He goes in a few weeks to see if he still has fluid in his pancreas, if he does the doctors will put a stint in his colon, which will have him in the hospital 7-10 days.
- ▶ **Traci Bryant's** uncle passed away. Let us keep the Molden family in our prayers.
- ▶ **Erica** is in need of prayer for her overall health. She appreciates the calls and prayers.
- ▶ **Mary Brock** has requested prayers for her daughters.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ April Birthdays

Sariah - 1st

Mary Brock - 8th

☑ Local Church News.

Cartersville Church of Christ is having their gospel meeting with Brother Jody Apple on April 14-17, 2019. Theme: The First Thing Jesus Taught: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).

☑ Traveling.

Sis. Pudgy, Sis. Penny

☑ Patty is in Oklahoma for a while.

☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

Fellowship dinner is the last Sunday of each month.

"THE PROOF THAT GOD EXSIST"

"Countering the Contradictions of an 'Alleged' Counterfeit Bible"

By
Melvin J. Bryant II

Many people ARGUE that the Bible has a bevy of "Contradictions!" And with theses "Allege" Contradictions, MANY (millions of people) have swayed away from adopting and confirming that the Bible is the word of God! You hear statements like, "*The Bible was written by man!*" Or; "*The white man wrote the Bible to oppress us and to keep us in check....to control us!*" Or; "*God is NOT real since I've never SEEN Him!*" I've even heard someone say, "*I'm not going to have a man, someone who wrote the Bible to tell me what I can and cannot do!*" And since they REJECT the Authority of God and believe the Bible has "Contradictions" within its pages, they argue the Bible is a Counterfeit, a FAKE, nothing but a book with make-believe stories, idle tales! The Bible has NO contradictions. For the Christian, we believe God TOLD these inspired men who wrote what's in the Bible....WHAT TO WRITE! (2 Peter 1:20-21). So, the Bible and ALL its writers are to be found TRUE, INNOCENT, And INSPIRED until someone can PROVE the Bible to be Disingenuous, which hasn't happened YET!"

When I say, "Countering the Contradictions" I'm simply saying that we need to give a defense to those who claim the Bible contradicts itself! (1 Peter 3:15). The YOUNG folk call it "Clapping Back"! According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, "A 'ClapBack' is deemed by most as a targeted, often viciously acute comeback intended to place someone in much-needed check! *It says*, the goal of the 'ClapBack' is to Shut. It. Down.". We are to Shut WHATEVER the critics are saying DOWN! Reminds me of Titus 1:10-11!

I. WHAT IS A CONTRADICTION?

- A. A "Contradiction" is, "a combination of statements, ideas, or features of a situation that are opposed to one another...it is, the statement of a position opposite to one already made!" (Dictionary - version 2.3.0 apple).
- B. Webster's Dictionary defines a "Contradiction" as, "a proposition, statement, or phrase that asserts or implies both the truth and falsity of something." Now, we need to....
- C. Understand a "Contradiction"!
 - If I made a statement and said, "A person can be Rich and Poor at the same time," is that a "Contradictory Statement"? It depends on how you view it!
 - A person can be Materialistically RICH (with this World's Goods), And, Yet POOR if they are Outside of Christ! (i.e. Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Bill Gates, etc.)
 - Jesus said, "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and lost his soul." (Matthew 16:26). Paul said, "For the LOVE of Money if the root of all kinds of evil." (1 Timothy 6:10).
 - The Bible records a story of a Rich young ruler as an example of loving money (Luke 18:18ff)
 - Jesus tells us, "For where your TREASURE is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21). This is why we ought to lay up for ourselves TREASURES in heaven (verse 20).
 - So, which person would you rather be....? RICH with Material Wealth, BUT Poor Spiritually, OR; RICH in Faith, BUT POOR Materially?! According to the Bible, which one REALLY matters? (see Proverbs 30:8-9).
 - Now, from a Different Perspective, a person can be RICH in Christ Jesus! (James 2:5).
 - So, in Christ Jesus we can be RICH in Faith, *however*, POOR and not having Material Wealth!
 - "IF" we had to choose, we ought to RATHER be RICH IN FAITH and POOR in Wealth! (cf. Hebrews 11:24-26; Luke 16:19ff).

II. SO CALLED CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE

- A. Those who Reject the Authority of God’s word will look to Acts 9:7 to justify their defiance because they FEEL that this “Contradicts” Acts 22:9! (see Acts 9:1-7).
- Acts 9:7 tells us that these men HEARD a Voice, BUT; they didn’t SEE no one!
 - Now Paul said in Acts 22:9 that the men who were with him INDEED saw the light and were afraid, BUT they DID NOT HEAR the voice of Jesus who spoke to him!
 - So, the NAY-SAYERS would say, “*See, the Bible Contradicts itself because in Acts 9:7 the Bible says the men HEARD the Voice, BUT; in Acts 22:9, Paul said the DID NOT HEAR the voice, and therefore lies the contradiction in the Bible!*” And they BELIEVE they have some validity to their accusation!
 - *However*, “IF” we would just carefully examine the text.
 - In Acts 9:7, the men INDEED HEARD the voice of Jesus, in this verse, *however*, it simply means that the men HEARD a sound!
 - And in Acts 22:9, when Paul said they did NOT HEAR the Voice, he is simply saying that they did not UNDERSTAND the Voice of Jesus who spoke to him!
 - *Therefore*, there is NO CONTRADICTION!
 - It’s like, when we watch a movie in another language, and the subtitles are in English, we can HEAR what the persons are saying, *however*, we don’t understand a WORD (we don’t understand the language) of what they are saying! The men that accompanied Paul HEARD a voice but did not understand! (cf. John 12:29).
- B. James (Acts 12:1-2)
- There is an answer to EVERY “Allege Contradiction!
 - Verse 2 tells us that Herod killed James, the brother of John with the sword!
 - *However*, in Acts 15:13, it’s recorded that James is speaking! So, the critics will say, “*See, HOW can Herod have killed James with the sword in Acts 12:2, but NOW in Acts 15:12, he is speaking with the brethren at this Jerusalem council!*” And with that, they DISCREDIT the Bible as false and contradictory!
 - But; there are a few things I want to point out: (1). The name JAMES was a common name in Biblical times! (Matthew 10:1-4). (2). The JAMES who lost his life at the hands of king Herod was the apostle, the brother of John (Acts 12:2)...The son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21; Matthew 10:2).
 - The JAMES in Acts 15 was the Lord’s brother! (see Galatians 1:18-19).
 - There is NO contradiction here!
- C. Jesus at the angel(s) at the tomb. (Matthew 28:1-4; Luke 24:1-7)
- Now, those who try to discredit the Bible as a book of myths, fairy tails, a fake and that it has many contradictions would say, “*See, here is another contradiction in the Bible...in Matthew 28:2, Matthew wrote, “...An Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it...” BUT; in Luke 24:4, Luke wrote, “...that TWO MEN stood by them in shining garments...”* Then the critics would conclude by saying, “*Ahh Ha, see how can I believe a book that’s saying TWO different things!*”
 - There is NO contradictions here! Matthew wrote an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone! As a matter of additional record, Matthew’s account tells us that there was a Great Earthquake, does this mean that since Mark and Luke’s account does not mention the Great Earthquake, it didn’t happen? Or; that Matthew’s account just sheds more light on the narrative?
 - Here is the simple answer to that....When ONE text adds information to another text, that’s NOT a Contradiction, that’s just ADDED information! Be encouraged brethren, until the last Amen!
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