

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

### Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

### Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

### Confess CHRIST

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

### Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

### Be Baptized

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21

### Be Steadfast

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## “A Word Fitly Spoken Is Like Apples Of Gold In Settings Of Silver”

Proverbs 25:11

“My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition” (Indira Ghandi).

# “Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

## ASCETIC VOWS VS. SCRIPTURAL LIBERTIES

by Bryan Matthew Dockens

Members of religious orders of the Catholic, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox churches, most prominently priests and nuns, commit themselves to particular ascetic vows. Asceticism, by definition, is extreme self-denial. Self-denial, of course, is enjoined upon all those who would follow Christ (Luke 9:23-24). However, the Lord never placed such restrictions as vows of chastity and poverty on His followers.

**The vow of chastity.** The apostle Paul made it abundantly clear that preachers and others are not bound by such a vow when he asked rhetorically, *“Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:5). To ask the question is to answer it – preachers have a “right” to be married.

In another letter, Paul warned *“that in latter times some will depart from the faith... forbidding to marry”* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1-2). To forbid it is apostasy since *“Marriage is honorable among all”* (Hebrews 13:4).

Granted, Paul found bachelorhood beneficial (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1-7, 32-33), but that was his personal choice, not a requirement.

While preachers have a **right** to lead about a believing wife, the elders who oversee the church are actually **required** to do

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## “The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

### Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

### Monday

7:00 pm.....Acts Study

Cogburn residence

### Tuesday

7:00 pm.....Ladies' Study

Bryan & Rachel Dockens residence

### Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

## “Give Attention To Reading”

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13

Your reading assignments for this week are as follows:

Sunday.....Ezekiel 4-6

Monday.....Ezekiel 7-9

Tuesday.....Ezekiel 10-12

Wednesday.....Ezekiel 13-15

Thursday.....Ezekiel 16-18

Friday.....Ezekiel 19-21

Saturday.....Ezekiel 22-24

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so (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:2, 11), and so must the deacons (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:11-12).

The so-called “vow of chastity” is not from God, but the devil.

**The vow of poverty.** This one is just as unscriptural as the last. Nowhere does God’s word even hint that preachers should be deprived of their livelihoods. On the contrary, Paul wrote, *“the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:14). He emphatically illustrated this point by referring to soldiers who are paid for their service, farmers who enjoy their produce, shepherds who live off their livestock (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:7), beasts of burden who should not be hindered while working (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:8-9), and the priests of Israel who partook from the offerings of the altar (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:13). He argued that spiritual service should yield some material benefit (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:11).

Even Jesus accepted contributions from His disciples (Luke 8:1-3).

Churches indeed owe *“wages”* to preachers (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:8) and elders (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:17-18). Such wages should be comparable to the earnings of others in the church. If the average member can afford the basics of life, so should the preacher. It is only reasonable that the preacher be at least able to provide food, shelter, clothing, and medicine for himself and his household (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:8). This is not an unrealistic expectation of churches. After all, if members contribute an average of ten percent of their income to the church, then the offerings of only ten members should be sufficient to meet the preacher’s needs!

Of course, when a church lacks the ability to provide such needs, it is important to practice contentment (Philippians 4:10-20), and, if necessary, to rely on a secular trade (Acts 18:3; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:11-12), but this is not what is intended by the Lord (Matthew 10:9-11).

Poverty is not God’s plan for anyone, as Agur declared, *“Give me neither poverty nor riches – feed me with the food allotted to me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God”* (Proverbs 30:8-9).

The principle of self-denial remains intact (Luke 9:23-24), but God does not demand of his ministers the sacrifice of these specified liberties.

## ANYWAY

Author Unknown

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway!

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway!

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Do well anyway!

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway!

The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest minds. Think big anyway!

People really need help, but they may attack you if you help them. Help people anyway!

Give the world your best, and you’ll get kicked in the teeth. Give the best you’ve got anyway!

## YOU, ME, AND THE BIBLE

Eugene Britnell

You may understand the Bible and I may misunderstand it. I may understand it and you may misunderstand it. We may misunderstand it differently. We may misunderstand it alike. But we cannot understand it differently. What kind of book would the Bible be if it said something to you that it didn’t say to me?

### *Vegas Valley Church Of Christ*

*Romans 16:16*

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